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B.C. students storm legislature to protest tuition hikes

by Kevin Groves and John Thompson

Thousands braved heavy rains to lodge their dissent with the provincial government and voice support for accessible education.

Nearly 3000 people, many of whom fear university tuition in B.C. could double in the next few years, gathered on the soggy legislature grounds and marched around the downtown core.

"We're here to say we're not going to take massive tuition hikes," said Janice Delcourt, who travelled from Nanaimo's Malaspina University-College. "That is just wrong."

> If [Shirley Bond] thinks she sees angry students now she should just wait two weeks and see what happens when she asks them to pay double for their education.
>
> *Summer McFadyen*

Students from UVic, Camosun College, Malaspina University-College, North Island College and Langara College all attended the rally.

The noisy crowd heard from student and labour leaders and emcee Troy Sebastian as the ground beneath their feet turned from grass to mud. Sebastian invited any Liberal MLA's who may be present to come to the mic. The invitation went unheeded.

Some said that Premiere Gordon Campbell promised to protect the tuition freeze and is now going back on his word.

"Cutting low-income people from getting an education is completely unacceptable," said John Gary, a student from Vancouver's Langara College. He said increased tuition will make it difficult but not impossible to attend school next year. But other students said they are not that fortunate.

"If the Liberals hike tuition there's no way I will be able to go to school," said UVic student Thea McMaher. "It's just that simple."

UVic grad Kim Toombs, now a community health worker and BCGEU member, attended the rally to support students.

"Basically, we all need to be in this together," she said. "We need to show serious solidarity now and we can't stop until all our demands are met."

Students staged solidarity actions across the country. Five thousand students marched in Toronto, 3,000 marched in Halifax and 1,500 marched in Vancouver. Several hundred students also converged sub-zero weather in Prince George, which is Advanced Education Minister Shirley Bond's home riding. Students also occupied the Newfoundland legislature and the Carleton University president's office to call for more government support of education. The Victoria demonstration was peaceful.

Summer McFadyen, B.C. chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, met briefly with Minister Bond before the rally but wasn't happy with the results.

"She just met us so she could tell the media about it," said the exasperated student leader. "She had nothing new to say to us."

McFadyen said she fears Bond has already decided to lift the freeze and go against her party's election promise to make education a priority.

"We're giving her a last chance here to change her mind in favour of students and in favour of the tuition freeze," she said.

McFadyen added the sentiment expressed by students on Feb. 6 would only grow stronger if Bond doesn't reconsider lifting the freeze.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Thousands of education supporters march down Douglas St. toward the legislature on Feb. 6.

"If she thinks she sees angry students now she should just wait two weeks and see what happens when she asks them to pay double for their education," McFadyen said.

Students marched around the downtown core, accompanied by bagpipes. Office workers on the second story of the central building waved and raised their fists, while bus drivers honked their support and employees inside TD Bank appeared more edgy.

Earlier that day a group of 30 UVic students marched from campus to the legislature, stopping at Camosun College and various high schools along their route. More than just university students showed up to the rally.

Ten-year-old Emile Fumiere attended the rally with his parents.

"I think Gordon Campbell shouldn't make university tuition more, because then only rich kids will be able to go," he said.

Some vowed to stay the night, constructing "Camp Campbell" with tents and tarps on the legislature lawn, despite the rainy weather. "The whole idea is that we're being left out in the cold," said Sasha Kvakic.

Document confirms tuition will double over three years

by Kevin Groves

A leaked document confirms the UVic Board of Governors (BOG) will support a massive tuition increase this September.

In a pre-budget report dated Jan. 17, the BOG said the government will allow it to double UVic's current tuition over three years. Projected revenue from tuition will go from $33 million this year to $64 million by 2004.

"While this would be a significant increase, it would provide a significant source of funding over the years ahead," the report said.

UVSS Chair Jaime Matten said this report confirms the student society's worst fears about skyrocketing tuition.

"This report proves that students are not crazy when they believe tuition could double very soon," she said. "When you do a budget, you budget conservatively and if this is what [the BOG's] estimates are then anything is possible at this point."

She said the government could announce an end to the tuition freeze as early as Feb. 7.

Morgan Stewart, a student representative on the BOG, added that drafting this report before provincial budgetary announcements on Feb. 19 confirms UVic's administrators know the freeze will be lifted.

UVic President David Turpin said the document is a draft for a new board about what UVic would have to do to maintain service if provincial grants remain frozen.

"At this point we don't know what the government is going to do about tuition and we don't know if the freeze is going to be lifted or not," Turpin said.

Turpin added he has been quite clear that, if provincial grants remain frozen to cover inflation, tuition would have to be raised.

Stewart said students need to fight to keep fees low now rather than hope they will be able to get financial assistance for steep tuition later.

"If students don't stand up now, the freeze will be lifted and 100 per cent increases are going to happen," he said.

The BOG forecast shows UVic has 710 undergraduate and 418 more graduate students than they can currently fund. Stewart suggested the BOG may have to cut those spots next year to make costs sustainable, which will push an increased tuition burden onto fewer students.

Turpin denied this claim and could not comment on what the university plans to do to address this systemic lack of funding until after the provincial budget comes out on Feb 19.

The report doesn't include recommendations for revenue sources other than tuition except to note that fundraising "figures prominently in [the] strategic plan."

He said the BOG has been working "non stop" to fundraise for student assistance like bursaries and scholarships.

The University Secretary's office on the fourth floor of UVic's economics building was locked on Feb. 5. The fourth floor holds Turpin's office as well as the board room where the BOG meets.

UVic spokesperson Bruce Kilpatrick said the precautions were taken to ensure "that disruptions [on the Feb. 6 day of protest] are kept to a minimum" and to protect the staff who work on the fourth floor.

"In the past we've had people coming in from off campus and there's been pushing and shoving," Kilpatrick said. "There are some concerns that we don't have a similar situation on our hands given the political climate right now." He added the BOG locks its doors every weekend.

Stewart said the measure is proof UVic's administration knows the policies it is implementing will be unpopular.

"They're scared right now and I don't blame them," he said.

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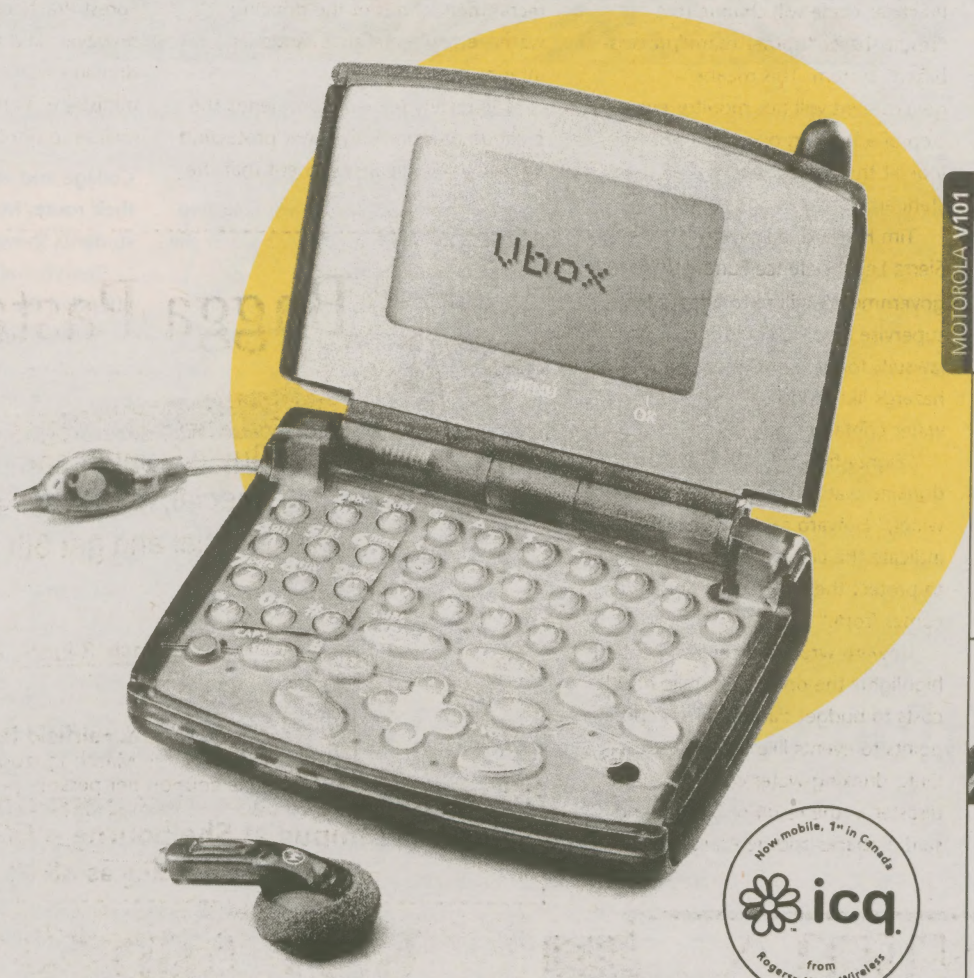
Peer pressure just got worse.



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Supporters march with students

by Sarah Glen and Suzanne Beaubien

Students weren't the only soggy and sandwiched people on the Legislature lawns at the Day of Action rally in Victoria.

Island bus drivers, teachers, elementary school students and parents braved the rain in support of the nationwide student protest, Feb. 6.

The supporters, who came from as far away as Courtenay and Vancouver, protested alongside lively students from various institutions.

"We are here to let [the students] know we back them. The cuts are going to hit them hard," said Glenn Dickie, a Victoria bus driver with BC Transit.

The UVSS supported the unionized drivers through their contract negotiations last April.

But it's not just threats of rising tuition and cuts to work experience programs that motivated Dickie and a handful of other drivers to join the demonstration. They're facing a situation similar to the tuition freeze.

The provincial government's expected freeze on the Transit Commission's budget led BC Transit to preemptively slash 10,000 hours from its bus routes.

Routes Victoria students use most may be hit the hardest, said Dickie.

The provincial government partially funds BC Transit, kicking in about 30 per cent of Transit's overall budget. The rest is collected by the Commission.

"We already pass students in the rain. Think of what it will be like after these cuts," said Dickie.

Along with the drivers, former teacher Bill Tate was there to show his support for students because he thinks education should be a publicly-supported service.

"Education, like transportation, should be free," said Tate. "Education should be embraced and made affordable, so we have people to fill the jobs that we need filled."

Tate said he has a long history of protests, both as a student in Berkeley in the '60s, and now as a parent. He thinks protests like yesterday's indicate the Liberal government's future.

"[Gordon Campbell] won't be around next time," said Tate. "These bottom liners don't have any vision."

Former Port Alberni resident and Malaspina College student Paul Besso is sympathetic to the student protesters because, like most students, he said he lives under the poverty line.

Besso quit school in grade seven but is now completing schooling in Human Services at Malaspina.

"We need to maintain a moral high ground and keep education accessible. It is a right," said Besso.

About 2,500 people packed the legislature grounds to protest the expected BC Liberal annulment of the six-year-long tuition freeze in this province.

Nearly three-quarters of B.C. residents said in a recent survey that they would give their tax cut back if they knew it would go to keeping tuition fees down.

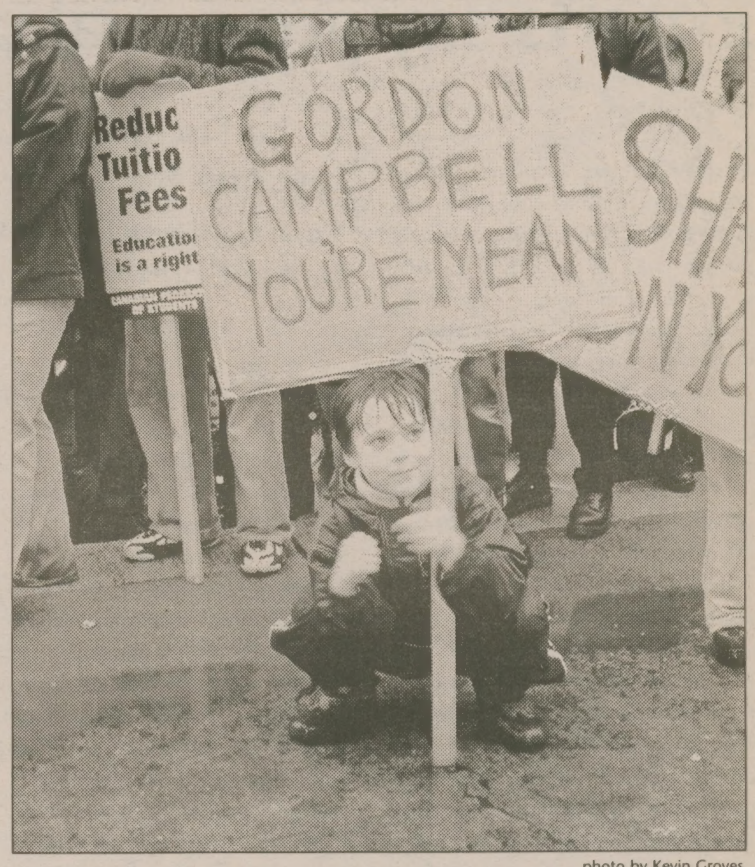

photo by Kevin Groves

Future voter Liam Brown, 6, attended the rally with his mom to show his support for university students.

B.C. cuts take toll on environment, risk another Walkerton, critics say

by Anna King

VANCOUVER (CUP) – The B.C. government's recently announced restructuring plan includes a dramatic cut to the ministries responsible for environmental protection and resource regulation.

Five provincial ministries, including the Ministry of Forests and the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, will lose approximately 35 per cent of their budgets over the next three years as well as one-third of their staff.

The plan outlines a shift toward simplifying regulatory processes for industry and increased private-sector responsibility.

"It's not self-regulation," Water, Land and Air Protection Minister Joyce Murray said. "We're still going to establish environmental standards. But we're not going to continue telling industry how to do what they do."

Murray said companies will have to monitor results themselves and post them.

Environmental groups, however, are worried that less monitoring, fewer staff and a slated elimination of one-third of government regulations will mean lower environmental standards.

Dale Marshall, a policy analyst with the think-tank Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, says the government has changed its role from that of a watchdog to a service provider for industry.

"The words used [in the ministries' service plans] are entirely business-oriented. The plans talk of ending constraints to economic development and giving certainty to industry," Marshall said.

The Ministry of Energy and Mines will change from a multi-agency permitting process to a single-window regime that hopes to double oil and gas production by 2008. And the Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management has committed to "providing faster approvals and greater access to Crown land."

This combination, Marshall said, will mean potential mining and oil and gas projects will get pushed through without adequate environmental assessment.

Mike Hogan, spokesperson for the Ministry of Forests, said the Forest Practices Code will change to a "results-based" rather than "process-based" system. This means government will not monitor every step of a logging operation but will look at the end product to see that standards are met.

Tim Howard, a lawyer with the Sierra Legal Defence Fund, said the government's failure to adequately supervise logging could lead to lawsuits for environmental and health hazards like landslides and drinking-water contamination.

"Eighty-five per cent of B.C.'s drinking water comes from surface water," Howard said. "These cuts indicate the Liberals are highly unlikely to protect the watersheds our water comes from."

Howard wrote a recent report that highlights the potential public health costs to budget slashing. The report points to events like the Walkerton, Ont., drinking-water contamination disaster as the result of budget and staff cutbacks and deregulation.

Howard said he doesn't think the government will follow the recommendations of the drinking-water review panel that issued its interim report recently.

The review panel recommends the creation of a drinking-water protection agency and a clear statement that the Drinking-Water Protection Act will prevail over any other acts, such as the Forest Practices Code. Murray, however, said the cuts will not affect drinking water and points out that her ministry is allocating an extra $1.5 million to drinking water protection.

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Experts say provincial deficit projections may be misleading

by Kevin Groves

According to some economists the provincial deficit may not be as large as the government claims, suggesting the deep tax cuts and cuts to social programs may be unnecessary.

In a recent report released by the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), B.C. Director Seth Klein said B.C. faces a "cyclical" deficit rather than the "structural" deficit they claim.

A structural deficit exists when the government cannot balance its budget no matter where it is in the business cycle. Cyclical deficits occur due to severe economic slowdown.

The report comes on the heels of the provincial government's cuts to jobs, services and programs on Jan. 17.

As the province emerges from the downturn, Klein said revenues will pick up and the cyclical deficit, which is expected to be $3.8 billion by 2003-04, will largely disappear.

He added the only financial crisis B.C. now faces comes from last year's tax cuts that added $2.3 billion to the cyclical deficit. "Unless the government still believes the tax cuts will pay for themselves, though they'd be pretty alone in the universe if they still thought that," he said.

> If the Fiscal Review Panel really believed revenue would decrease in the next few years, it would have to negate any benefit generated by the tax cuts.
>
> *Jon Kesselman*

The BC Liberals claim they face a structural deficit thanks to a report released by a government-appointed Fiscal Review Panel (FRP) last summer.

"While we are not in an immediate financial crisis, government is operating in a fundamentally unsustainable manner," read the report.

But Klein suggested the report's findings show what he called "hyper-conservative assumptions."

For instance, the $1.25 billion of the structural deficit is a "forecast allowance," or a revenue cushion that may not be needed should the economy improve.

Jon Kesselman, a UBC economist, said this conservative approach could do substantial harm in the long run.

"Thanks to that revenue cushion, if everything goes as planned [the government] will have a surplus of 1.25 billion by 2004-05," Kesselman said. "This will likely make people ask whether we needed to cut as much and who paid for it."

Klein also pointed to the FRP assumption that revenues would plummet this year, mainly due to a steep decline in energy prices. He said this assumption doesn't make sense since the government's own Energy Task Force recently stated prices would likely rise.

Kesselman added that, if the FRP really believed revenue would decrease in the next few years, it would have to negate any benefit generated by the tax cuts.

"Shouldn't we be seeing some benefit from the tax cuts by 2004 to 2005?" Kesselman said. "If so it should be reflected in the FRP's revenue forecast and it's not, so their analysis is extremely pessimistic."

Klein believes the government doesn't think B.C. is facing a structural deficit either, since the money saved from cutting the civil service last month – $1.9 billion by 2004-05 – amounts to almost the same revenue it lost when it cut taxes.

"This suggests that either the Liberals don't actually believe their own rhetoric about a structural deficit, or there are more cuts coming," Klein said. "Hopefully it is the former."

Finance Minister Gary Collins was unavailable for comment by press time.

Norman Ruff, a UVic political scientist, said the B.C. government refuses to change its budget forecast.

"There is no question the world has changed since May 2001 but the Finance Minister is still stuck on automatic pilot," Ruff said. "Though he refuses to admit it, you just have to look at the numbers to see that we're heading for a four to five billion dollar deficit, with at least half that of the government's own making."

Kesselman said moderate spending restraints are necessary to deal with B.C.'s ailing finances, but not the severe cuts seen so far.

As for the forecast allowance, Kesselman said he would set it to zero.

"Why inflict the worst on people who rely on social programs when there doesn't seem to be any reason to?" he asked.

The CCPA is a left-leaning think tank that promotes research on issues of social and economic justice.

Activism meets art

by Brodie Waddell

In a world where anti-globalization activists only get airtime if they wear black masks and smash a few windows, it has become more and more difficult for protesters to get their message out, say those involved in local activism.

Many area activists are responding with a new set of tactics and an entirely different way of expressing their dissent.

"We try to use as much colour and noise as possible," said Matt Lamb of the recently founded Apeshit Art Collective. "By incorporating pantomimes, street skits, painted banners and a few drums we can attract the attention of people who would otherwise ignore us."

The collective spent the last two Saturdays in UVic's Student Union Building assembling papier-mâché apes. The apes are used to represent debt as 'a monkey on students' backs' at the Feb. 6 tuition freeze rally.

Coat hanger claws, newspaper nostrils and random acts of radical street theatre are all designed to add a little creativity to Wednesday's mass demonstration.

"Speeches are important too, but skits can be a fun break from an endless series of talking heads," said Lamb.

"And for some reason, we seem to get more media attention too."

The Raging Grannies are another group that made a name for themselves with off-the-wall tactics.

"We're a group of elderly women who go to protests dressed up in big hats and outlandish clothes and sing songs [about the issues at hand]," said member Freda Knott.

Started as a peace organization in Victoria about 15 years ago, the Raging Grannies now have 78 different chapters across the continent. The chapters meet at an 'unconvention' every two years to exchange songs and ideas.

"The media seem to like us, which is nice," said Knott. "But mainly we're about getting the ordinary Joe to start thinking politically."

Though there often seems to be a divide between the more confrontational 'direct-action' protesters at some demonstrations and their fellow activists, these groups seem to get along well with all elements of the protest movement.

"We support non-violent actions of all types," said Knott. "In fact, some of our members were arrested during the demonstrations [over logging] at Clayoquot Sound."

The Radical Cheerleaders, like the Raging Grannies, attempt to combine elements of both street theatre and activism at social justice events and radical festivities of all kinds.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

A goulish puppeteer makes his way down Government St. on Feb. 6.

The cheerleaders rose to prominence after the 1999 WTO protests in Seattle and now have groups scattered across Canada and the U.S.

"Our goal is to raise awareness of the issues we support in an original, creative way," said Michelle Kinney, a member of the Radical Cheerleaders.

According to her, their methods are effective for a very simple reason,

"People are more likely to listen to what you have to say if they're having fun."

Depending on the size and the nature of the event, anywhere between 3 to 20 Cheerleaders will show up to keep the protesters excited and morale up.

Everyone from this new wave of activists seems to agree with Lamb that fun is the key ingredient in this type of activism. "It's as simple as that," Lamb said.

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Day of Action tactics change over the years

by John Thompson

Student campaigns for the annual February Day of Action have come in many forms, from being the bedfellow of government bureaucracy to blockading campus with booty-shaking Radical Cheerleaders.

The UVic Student Society (UVSS) is a member of the Canadian Federation of Students (CFS), which campaigns for reduced tuition and increased government funding nationally and culminates their efforts on the annual Day of Action.

According to former UVSS Chair Rob Fleming, the student society enjoyed a cozy relationship with the NDP provincial government during his time as chair in 1998-99, but he remembers it wasn't always that way.

He was introduced to the student movement in 1992 when Langara students occupied former B.C. Premier Mike Harcourt's office for two weeks after the government broke an election promise and increased tuition by 10 per cent.

"That was my first taste of protest," he said. After several years of lobbying, the government announced a freeze on tuition in 1995 and by the time he became UVSS chairperson in 1998 the student society's relationship with the provincial government was less adversarial.

"I think the student union had a very good relationship with the government of B.C. and that's what secured the tuition freeze," he said. "Our agendas coincided on a lot of issues."

Morgan Stewart succeeded Fleming as chairperson in 1999-2000 and attracted both admiration and contempt for his boisterous leadership. UVic was one of the only schools where students blockaded its entrances for the CFS day of action that year.

"I fully admit there were a large number of people who were pissed off," Stewart said. He defended the decision to blockade the school and said that a strike vote was held among students, which passed with a strong majority.

Since the student strike of 1999, protest tactics on student days of action have been more reserved. But if the provincial government reacts with indifference to this year's action, the province could see a replay of the radical 1999 protest. Stewart said he believes that a province-wide student strike would encourage the current government to keep the tuition freeze.

"If students would go on strike, we would get what we wanted," he said.

But it would be a mistake to believe the student movement's goals are determined by its elected leaders, said Summer McFadyen, who became chair of the UVSS in 2000-2001, and is now the B.C. chair of the CFS.

"It wasn't just because of Morgan's personality, it was because a group of students on campus came together."

McFadyen anticipates that student tactics will escalate if the B.C. government lifts the tuition freeze.

"We're going to see more and more high-stakes events," she said.

McFadyen said she hopes the government will pay attention to the sentiment in the Feb. 6 protest

"The point, in part, is that even though the government isn't responding, it should be," she said.

Jaime Matten, the current chair of the UVSS, expressed similar skepticism towards the BC Liberals. Matten has a colder relationship with the provincial government than previous chairs. While she has participated in consultation periods with the government, she doesn't expect them to listen to her concerns.

"I think it's clear for this government that they don't want to negotiate," she said.

Matten fears that lifting the tuition freeze is inevitable and said she will focus her lobby on the UVic Board of Governors (BOG) after Feb. 6. "That's their decision [to raise tuition] at the end of the day," she said. Even if the provincial government lifts the freeze, the BOG will have to make the call to increase tuition.

Universities are not allowed to incur financial deficits so if funding remains frozen and the tuition freeze is lifted, the BOG may have little choice but to increase tuition. But Matten is still critical of the board's intentions.

"Are they actively lobbying government to restore funding?" she wondered. "Because if the answer to this is 'no,' you have to question the interests of the BOG."

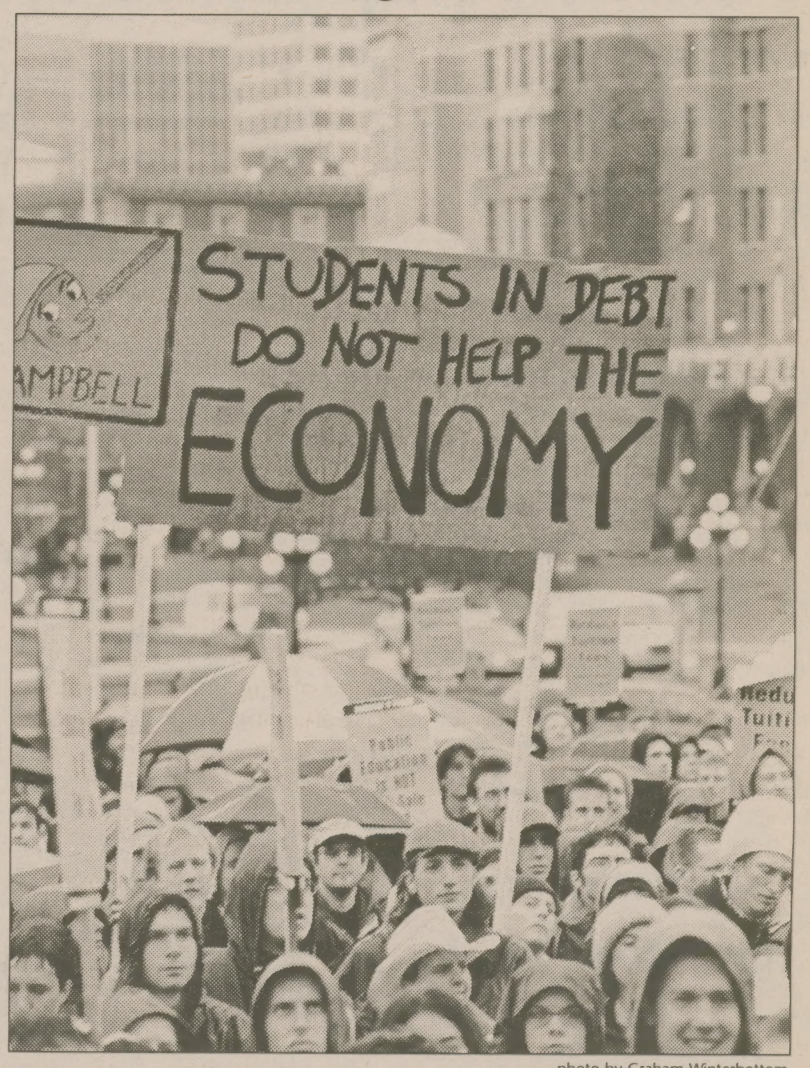

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Snapshots of the student movement

by John Thompson

1922 – On Oct. 28 hundreds protest against overcrowded classrooms at UBC on a march later dubbed "The Great Trek." The student population had reached 1200 at UBC, while facilities were only built to hold 400. Days later, student leaders present a petition with over 56,000 signatures to the provincial legislature. Soon afterwards, $1.5 million funding is secured to build the new campus at Point Grey.

1963 – Students lobby the provincial government to adopt the Macdonald Commission which calls for the establishment of the college system in B.C. Students travel around the province in buses, collecting 100,000 signatures. The college system is established during the mid-60s.

1964 – Students participate in the last major day of protest before the National Union of Students (NUS) collapses in 1969. Demands include the abolition of tuition, a "living subsidy" and student representation on university board of governors.

1995 – Across Canada over 100,000 students protest the federal government's withdrawal of transfer payments – the largest student demonstration in Canadian history. In Victoria 7,000 students take to the streets.

1999 – On Nov. 30, students join with environmentalists, trade unionists and anti-globalization activists to successfully shut down the World Trade Organization (WTO) meeting in Seattle. Over 200 students from UVic participate, voicing concerns that public services like health and education will be treated like other commodities.

2001 – Thousands of students protest in Quebec City against the Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) summit, arguing the agreement will commodify post-secondary education and open it to privatization.

Sources: Canadian Federation of Students documents.
Ed Lavalle, former student leader, present provincial secretary of the NDP.

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Students pop herbs for health

by Brooke Taylor

Alternative medicine and health care are growing in popularity among Victorians, especially students.

Jane O'Halloran, a naturopathic physician at the Fairfield Naturopathic & Acupuncture Clinic, finds digestive, skin and PMS complaints figure predominantly among the college and university students she sees.

Students' reasons for seeking alternative medicine vary.

"It's a mixed bag," said O'Halloran. "It depends on their age. A lot of them are really educated and have been vegetarians or vegans; they don't like the thought of drugs."

"The philosophy underlying naturopathy prefers to treat the person, not just the symptoms," said Serenity Aberdour, an intern from the Canadian College of Naturopathic Medicine in Toronto. "It tries to find why someone exhibits the symptoms," she said.

UVic student Jessi Grams uses naturopathic medicine and services for various health problems.

"I've tried traditional Western medicine and I just didn't get results. And the side effects were debilitating," she said.

The UVSS Extended Health Plan with Green Shield Canada covers physiotherapist, chiropractor, naturopath and registered massage therapist services up to $125 per paramedical discipline per benefit year.

Grams believes the UVic health care plan should cover 80 per cent of the cost of vitamin and herbal supplements. Prescription drugs are already covered by the plan.

In Ontario naturopathic physicians can provide drug identification numbers for vitamins and supplements they recommend so patients' insurance companies cover the cost, similar to prescription drugs.

Naturopaths often work in cooperation with other health care practitioners.

Grams found her medical doctor encouraging and supportive about the students' wish to try naturopathy, chiropractic and massage therapy.

"[The doctor] gave my naturopathic doctor access to my file and helped me get financial reimbursement for chiropractic and massage," said Grams.

Policy governing the Medical Services Plan Supplementary Benefits program changed on Jan. 1, 2002. Previously, it provided patients on premium assistance – those with an annual net income of $20,000 or less – 12 visits per year to each of the following: physiotherapy, chiropractic, naturopathy and massage therapy.

As of Jan. 1 the MSP contributes $23 per visit to naturopathy practitioners, with a maximum of 10 visits annually to all alternative medicine providers combined.

Grams advocates alternative medicine for the common student problems of stress, tension, anxiety, insomnia and low energy. "Students don't know how easy it is [to get reimbursed] and how much is covered, even with the government's cuts, and if you don't make very much money," she said.

Naturopathy and other forms of alternative medicine should be incorporated into the public health care system, said Aberdour.

"I think it would be a lot less costly to the health care system because it's preventative. Governments tend to look short-term for their budgets but it would be good long-term."

"Workdays would be saved – people would not be calling in sick to work," she said. "There's also the issue of empowerment; people being allowed to choose their own medicine, and not being limited," she concluded.

News Briefs

Secrets of Ice Age revealed at UVic

by Suzanne Beaubien

Using a computer model, researchers at UVic have charted the world's climate over the last 100,000 years, possibly providing some insight into the mystery of the Ice Age.

The ongoing study, published in the American journal, *Science*, last week has revealed the origins of the 20 significant climate shifts that occurred during the 90,000-year period.

Co-authored by Dr. Andrew Weaver, head of the UVic climate modeling group, and Dr. Masakazu Yoshimori, the study points to the interaction of oceans and icebergs as key factors in causing the numerous significant climate shifts.

"Our study solves the interactions between huge land-ice masses and the North Atlantic ocean during the last glacial period. It gives a sense as to why the climate system was much more variable during the last glacial period and it shows the triggering mechanism for these changes," said thermo-dynamics professor and lead author Dr. Andreas Schmittner.

Since evidence of the climate shifts was first revealed by deep ice core samples in 1984, there has been much debate on their trigger.

The model the UVic researchers developed for this study can also predict future climate changes.

Ontario snubs Queen's pitch to deregulate fees

by Kim Edwards

TORONTO (CUP) – The Ontario government has rejected a proposal from Queen's University that would have allowed the school to increase tuition by 10 per cent each year.

Ontario Universities Minister Dianne Cunningham announced Jan. 23 the Pathfinder program proposed by Queen's – an initiative that would have allowed the university to raise tuition fee levels for undergraduate programs far above the current two per cent-per-year maximum regulated by the province – had not received government approval.

"The government is not prepared to make any exception to the regulated system of tuition fees at this time," Cunningham said in a letter to the university.

Queen's president William Leggett said the province's rebuff of the proposal will mean the university will immediately begin making cuts to both budgets and teaching staff.

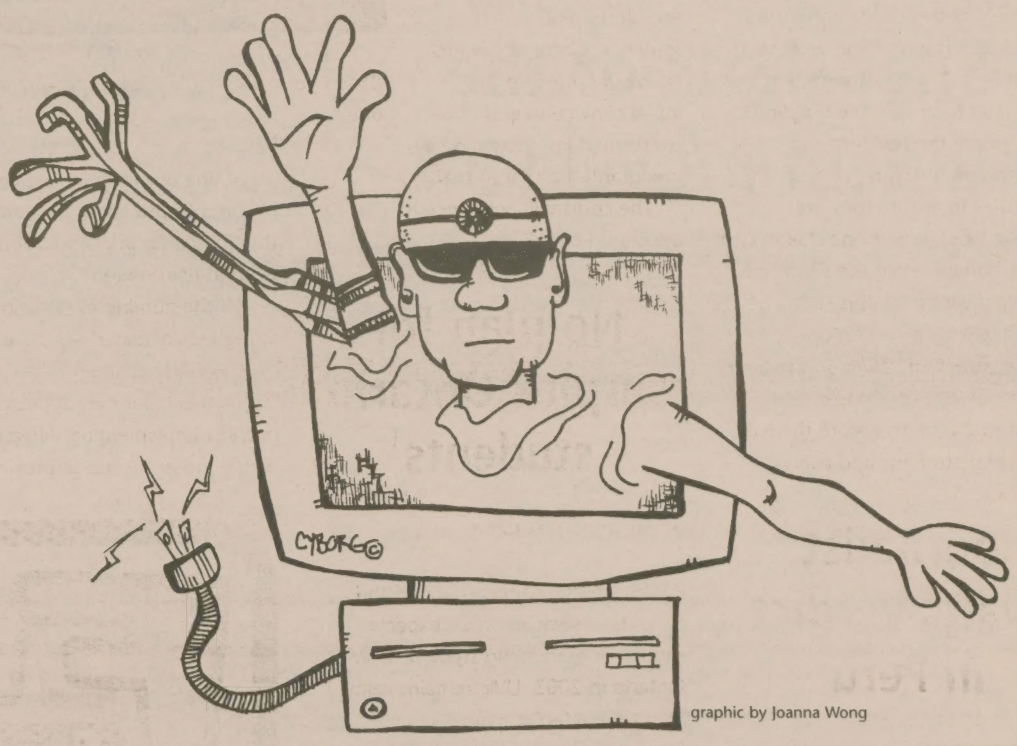
"We will be cutting $8 billion this year," Leggett said. "The government has not taken into account the inflationary costs of this university."

He added Queen's would also limit the replacement of teaching staff lost to retirement.

The government's rejection of the Pathfinder program is a victory for students, many of whom worried deregulated tuition fees would make studying at Queen's impossible for students from lower- and middle-income families.

Students have waged a vocal campaign against deregulation, culminating in a five-student occupation of Leggett's office last month.

"Students all around Ontario are happy about the decision," said Rick Telfer, national executive representative for the Canadian Federation of Students. "However, it doesn't mean we're not going to push for our other demands: Tuition fee reductions in programs that have been deregulated and genuine fully funded tuition freeze in all programs."



graphic by Joanna Wong

Cyborg to visit university

by Kelsey Dundon

Three arms, a stomach of steel and hopefully an extra ear: It's a body ideal most people wouldn't ascribe to. But most people are not like Stelarc.

A man who is both an artist and a piece of art, Stelarc believes in "enhancing the body" through the use of medical instruments, robots and prosthetics.

He will perform at UVic as part of the Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival.

His multi-media presentation "Zombies and Cyborgs: Obsolete, Involuntary and Automated Bodies" will illustrate his many strange practices involving the human body.

Stelarc's lecture will also involve audience volunteers by allowing them to test an automated body.

Stelarc filmed the inside of his stomach, colon and lungs, a project he described as "physically difficult work."

A few years later he began his "Third Hand Project." The prosthesis will be attached and demonstrated by Stelarc.

Currently, Stelarc is working on the addition of an extra ear. This involves the insertion of a balloon under the skin to stretch the skin to the size of a human ear. An artificial ear will be implanted with a modem to receive sound from the internet.

His performance will be at the Centre for Innovative Teaching, room 105, on Saturday, Feb. 9, 7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

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News Briefs continued

Seismic upgrade at UVic

by Suzanne Beaubien

Students at UVic can attend class feeling more secure as UVic buildings will be better prepared to withstand the "big one."

Large sections of Clearihue, Elliot and the McKinnon Gym are under construction to meet new seismic safety codes.

While the buildings met safety standards when they were built, the codes have changed, said project manager Allan Oliphant. "The new codes suggest they are not stable."

The seismic upgrade involves many adjustments both outside and inside the buildings. The east and west ends of Clearihue's 'D' wing are getting new concrete laid to ensure the building's stability. Inside the building, work is being done on furniture, ceilings and light fixtures to ensure they are seismically fixed and will not fall in case of an earthquake. Even the Clearihue clock tower will be reinforced.

All the buildings remain open during construction. Work on the McKinnon Gym is conducted from midnight to 7 a.m. to ensure the least disruption for students and users.

Journalist awaits verdict in Peru

by Suzanne Beaubien

While protesters in Canada worry about the effect anti-terrorism legislation may have on their freedom to dissent popular opinion, an American journalist awaits the verdict of her appeal against a terrorism conviction in Peru.

On June 20, 2001, Lori Berenson was sentenced to 20 years in a Peruvian prison after being found guilty of collaborating with the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA). MRTA is a Peruvian revolutionary guerrilla movement, which was planning to overthrow the government.

Police found a large supply of explosives and weapons in the house Berenson rented before her arrest in Nov. 1995.

Berenson said she moved out before her arrest and did not know her roommates were rebels with plans to attack Congress.

While Berenson admitted sympathy for the Tupac Amaru's cause, she maintains innocence from participating in any terrorist acts.

Originally sentenced to life in a maximum security prison, Berenson already served six years of her sentence when, after much US media pressure, her initial conviction was overturned last year and she was granted a civilian trial.

The court will announce its decision, Feb. 12.

No plan for surplus Ontario students

by Suzanne Beaubien

While national papers sounded the alarm this week about an expected surplus of graduating students from Ontario in 2003, UVic remains calm about the effect it may have on admission requirements.

With grade 13 eliminated from Ontario's educational requirements, an influx of graduates will flood the post-secondary education system in Canada next year, causing some universities to wonder how they will accommodate the influx.

Because students from the new four-year program will be graduating at the same time as students in the old five-year program, as many as an additional 33,500 Ontario secondary school students could be entering universities in 2003-2004.

Cled Thomas, UVic's administrative registrar, said while there is no plan in place, the university would consider changes to present admission policies if the number of applicants from Ontario were to rise enough.

"If the number of Ontario applicants increased significantly, we may consider changing the GPA requirements for new applicants, possibly implementing differential GPA requirements for out-of-province applicants," he said.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Brace yourselves, UVic is preparing for the "big one."

Conservatives on campus hope to broaden student views

by Kevin Groves

Whether you love or loathe them, UVic's right-wing affiliated clubs are tired of being misunderstood on campus.

"I've never felt unwelcome on campus but I have had plenty of debates," said Lisa Karoway, president of the UVic College Republicans.

"We are not racist or homophobic and believe that everyone should be able to get involved in politics."

Karoway, a political science major at UVic, said she started the College Republicans last year due to what she said was a lack of right-wing discussion on campus.

She said she chose an affiliation with the American Republicans to provide an alternative to home-grown partisan clubs like the UVic Canadian Alliance club.

"I asked myself 'what's a banner that we can all subscribe under?' and I ended up recruiting more people than I expected," she said.

Karoway added there is a feminist aspect to her political affiliation. She said the left appears to be alone in calls for more women in politics while the right is always portrayed as sexist, a claim she said is untrue.

"I've never come across anyone in the BC Liberals or the Canadian Alliance clubs who have ever pushed me away," Karoway said. "It is so important for women to get in and change the preconceptions of these parties."

Karoway said she continues to follow a right-wing viewpoint to ensure all sides of the political spectrum are recognized on campus.

"Regardless of whether you're right wing or not we all face oppression," she said. "Once you sit down and talk to people opinions change so it's important to talk to people and get to know them."

But not every member of the right on campus is willing to be as accommodating as Karoway.

Andrew McVie, vice-president of the College Republicans, said criticism of right-wing clubs on campus stems from a failure to understand that freedoms of speech and expression are made possible by the military protection and economic power given to Canada by the United States.

"Most student activists on campus probably resent the College Republicans' existence, so I deal with criticisms by being an arrogant bastard," McVie said.

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STUDENT UNION BUILDING, UVIC

Students sell sex for textbooks and tuition

by Sarah Glen

Sex sells, and for an increasing number of students in Victoria it also pays for tuition, rent and books.

Nobody knows exactly how many of the Capital Region's estimated 2,000 sex trade workers sell sex for tuition money, but some escort services admit anywhere from one-third to half of their staff are students. Workers guess that more students will turn to the trade as cuts to services and education and the lifting of the provincial tuition freeze make university even less accessible.

"It's not surprising to me. A lot of my girls are students," said Rebecca, the owner of a Victoria-based escort service. "It's usually a last resort, but when their student loans run out, where else are they going to turn?"

photos by Graham Winterbottom

More Victoria students will likely turn to the sex trade to meet the skyrocketing cost of education in future years. Some agencies already estimate that one-third to half their workers are students.

> When you are economically backed into a corner, already selling your smile and body at a bar so clients will buy drinks, it doesn't seem like so much of a reach to sell sex too.
>
> *Lisa, ex-Camosun College student*

The sex trade encompasses a wide range of work, not just escorts. For students working as exotic dancers, phone sex operators, adult models or deep masseuses, the number could be even higher.

Rebecca said she sees an increase in students applying for sex trade jobs around January, February and March – when student loans thin and 'square' sales and service jobs are hard to come by. Since Victoria businesses rely on a strong summer tourist season, the winter can be the most difficult for young, minimally skilled students looking for work over the spring semester. Square jobs are jobs found outside the sex trade.

Rebecca estimates one-third of her 40 escorts, about 13 women, are students in the city, either at UVic, Camosun College or one of the many trade, business and computer colleges. Almost all of her 10 phone sex operators are students.

Paige Adams, one of Rebecca's escorts, said without the sex trade she would have had a hard time completing her business/accounting/web site design course at the Academy of Learning Computer and Business Career College.

She completed her course with a 96 per cent mark on her final exams last August.

"I wasn't worried about my bills. I could take the weekend off to study. Without those outside pressures, I had the time to focus on school," Adams said.

The 28-year-old escort started working in the island's sex trade when she was 19 years old. She said she made $500 her first night and since then, has been alternating between her work as an escort and her job as a bookkeeper.

As a popular escort, Adams said she could make upwards of $700, a portion of which is handed over to Rebecca.

Most escort services exact fees on their escorts. A percentage paid to the escort, normally around 30 per cent, is taken by the business. Adams plans to open up her own square business based on the web design and accounting skills she's learning in school, out of her home soon.

In a report released in October, "Dispelling Myths and Understanding Realities: Working Conditions, Health Status and Exiting Experiences of Sex Workers," UVic sociologist, Cecilia Benoit and a UVic grad student Alison Millar found a mean annual income of about $18,000 for women working in the sex trade and about $10,000 a year for men.

But the report focussed on workers in Victoria whose main source of income came from selling sex.

Benoit is quick to point out students, who are often transient job seekers during their post-secondary education, fall in and out of the industry based on their economic need. The majority enter in the summer, between semesters, when they are looking to save money for the upcoming school year.

For Benoit, students are typical of most that enter the sex trade because they're poor; they have very minimal job experience, very few credentials and are looking for a flexible way to make money to meet rent, house, tuition or credit payments.

"What's interesting to me is people in the sex trade are not unusual people but ordinary people trying to make rational choices based on their work, life and job skills," she said. "It's not surprising college students trade sex for money if you take into account where they are in their lives."

And for many students it's a life of scrimping and saving on tight budgets dictated by student loans.

Lisa, an ex-Camosun College Psychology major now applying to Simon Fraser University (SFU) to continue her degree, seriously considered selling her body, company and sexual services to a single man, or sugar daddy, in exchange for money to pay tuition, rent and books. With a small student loan and her work as a server in a local nightclub she could barely make rent or buy food.

"When you are economically backed into a corner, already selling your smile and body at a bar so clients will buy drinks, it doesn't seem like so much of a reach to sell sex too," she said. "Now, I'm not too sure if I would consider it so strongly. But I also don't have to worry about how to pay my phone bill or groceries now either."

She plans to go to SFU in September and currently works as a Special Needs Assistant with the Victoria school district.

Recent government cutbacks to post-secondary work experience programs, limits to next year's pool of available student loans and the threats to lift this province's tuition freeze (which some estimate will raise the price of tuition anywhere from 30 to 70 per cent) will make the sex trade even more attractive to struggling students, said Rebecca.

"The cuts are huge and you better believe it that it's going to be harder for students," she said. "If student loans were higher and there was more support for them, I can tell you these girls wouldn't be turning to escort services."

University graduates leave school with an average $25,000 debt load, up from $8,000 in 1990. This figure will likely increase even more as tuition rises.

Rebecca foresees a flooded sex trade in the coming years, despite the risks and dangers surrounding the industry. There have been very few unsolved missing sex trade worker cases here in Victoria but in Vancouver the city is missing 50 women, most of them sex trade workers from the lower east side.

"Prostitution is still illegal but it's not of primary concern for the police," said Victoria Sgt. Derek Chow, who sits on the board and works closely with Prostitutes' Empowerment, Education and Resource Society (PEERS).

Police are largely concerned with sexually exploited youth in the city.

Both the Greater Victoria police along with PEERS' outreach workers compiled a 'bad date' list with help from local sex trade workers who have been beaten, raped or abused by a client.

PEERS is a grassroots, non-profit society that offers support and programs for sex trade workers and those who want to exit the industry.

The bad date list outlines the location of the abuse and the description of the client. With it, which is also available from PEERS, police have evidence to back them up when they pick up a 'john,' a man trying to buy sex from a worker.

"It's intelligence for us," said Chow. "With this list we have potential suspects if something does happen down the road."

Without collaboration, police would have a hard time keeping tabs on violent abusers who attack sex trade workers, he said.

"It's a trust (between police and PEERS). You know the girls are out there prostituting themselves and you're not condoning an illegal act but you do want those girls to be safe."

Leah Simpson, an ex-escort who now works at PEERS is all too familiar with the fear that underlies the sex trade.

"Every date you or your friends go on you are always in fear. It's in the back of your mind, 'This guy could be a killer,'" she said.

Workers even have a list of 'rules' – items they follow once with a john: Always be on top. Trust your instincts. Don't let him put his hands around your throat, are just a few, Simpson said.

But it's the long-term damage the sex trade imparts on the workers that bothers her the most.

"Even though it is often by choice, a lot of girls show symptoms of abuse. It may be consensual, but it's still unhealthy," she said.

Simpson worked for two years in the trade, first as a topless masseuse and later as an escort. She said constant exhaustion, anger and self-loathing were just a few symptoms that finally, with the help of a friend, led her out of the trade.

Jannit Rabinovitch, a community development consultant, who is also a member of the police board and PEERS, highlights the difficulties sex trade workers face, even when, like most students, they chose to enter the industry.

Rabinovitch tells the story of a woman who put herself through university working in the sex trade. She led a successful career as a teacher and it wasn't until she turned 60 years old that her past started to bother her.

"She couldn't live with the dissonance in her life," said Rabinovitch about the woman. "There are a lot of barriers to reintegration. People need to do a lot of work to function after the sex trade. It may be a small part of your life but it becomes increasingly difficult to separate it from all the other aspects of your life."

Even 20-year-old Mariah, who first worked as an escort and now works as a phone sex operator isn't sure how her sex trade work will affect her future.

"It's too close yet," she said. "All I know is that the year (as an escort) was a good year. It gave me time for life."

Mariah will be attending SJ Willis Educational Centre within two weeks to complete her grade 11 and 12. She will enroll in the school's teacher assistant program – all with money she earned working in the sex trade.

"A lot of people get the wrong idea about escorts. An amazing amount of women in Victoria do this sort of work and a lot of them use the money to finance school. It can be anyone."

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Sex trade work includes escorts, exotic dancers, phone sex operators, adult models or deep masseuses. It enables cash-strapped students to make money quicker than in typical service industry jobs.

UBC student turns grease to gas

by Parminder Nizher

VANCOUVER (CUP) – Most students at the University of British Columbia visit their campus pub for a quick meal or an after-class beer.

Geoff Hill goes to get fuel for his car.

The fourth-year environmental studies student uses vegetable-oil grease from the university's Pit pub to make his own fuel, known as biodiesel.

Biodiesel runs on any unmodified diesel engine and can be made at home in just a few hours. It can be used alone or mixed with petroleum diesel fuel. It's also safe to handle because it is biodegradable and non-toxic.

The fourth-year environmental studies student uses vegetable-oil grease from the university's Pit pub to make his own fuel, known as biodiesel, an environmental phenomenon.

Hill says a love for the environment sparked his interest in earth-friendly fuels.

"My passion is nature and I wanted to enjoy the natural world without destroying the wilderness," Hill said. "I couldn't rationalize going out hiking if my means to get there was destroying the environment. "

"Biodiesel doesn't increase the greenhouse effect, which is one of the major problems faced by the world today. The plants that made the oil that we're making biodiesel from first took their carbon, through photosynthesis, from the atmosphere."

Hill said switching to biodiesel hasn't hindered the performance of his car.

"I have one-tenth biodiesel in my tank right now and it runs great. And it smells like french fries."

Biodiesel is also incredibly cheap to produce: The vegetable grease is free and one only needs to purchase methanol and lye to separate it.

"It's going to end up costing me $6 a tank to run my whole car," he said.

Al Wong is a chemical engineer for Arbokem, a company that develops products based on natural mechanisms. His company, along with PetroCan and CanFor, have tested biodiesel on B.C. transit buses and Canada Post vehicles.

"The concept works quite well. Biodiesel [added to regular diesel] helps the engine run at a 10-per-cent-higher efficiency," said Wong. "We tested it for nine months a number of years ago and the mileage was better with lower particulates."

Hill first learned of biodiesel in a magazine, where he came across the "Veggie Van" during the summers of 1997 and 1998.

Environmentalist Joshua Tickell drove across the U.S. in a van running on 100 per cent biodiesel. The Veggie Van reaches speeds of more than 70 miles per hour and has traveled over 25,000 miles on fuel made from new and used vegetable oil.

There is a catch, however, to biodiesel. To run a vehicle entirely on biodiesel, specific parts of the vehicle need to be changed, which costs money. Until Hill is able to find sponsorship, he has to purchase diesel fuel to mix with the biodiesel.

Hill is confident the use of biodiesel will grow in coming years.

"Within 10 years, biodiesel is going to be big. With climate change being such a large item on government panels, the multinational corporations are going to see this is the way they're going to have to go."

EATING DISORDERS AWARENESS WEEK

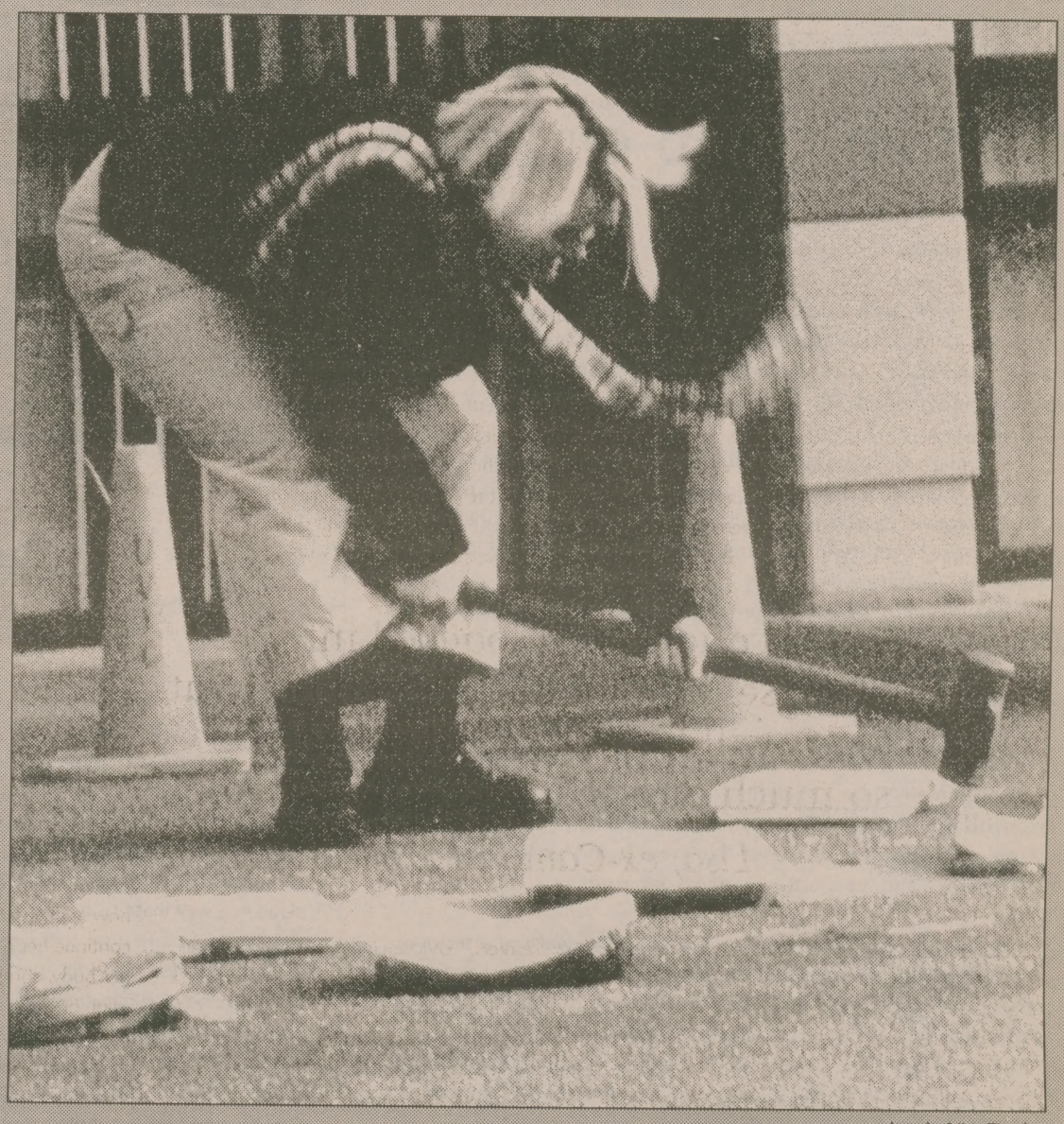

photo by Misty Therrien

Jen Gibson smashes a scale with a sledgehammer at the awareness-raising event for Eating Disorders Awareness Week. "We are hoping that people are wanting to break free of the numbers game and celebrate acceptance at any size," Gibson said.

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EDITORIAL

Democracy does not start and stop on Feb. 6

Secretly we know, but we'd rather not admit, that the spectre of thousands of students protesting on the legislature lawn Feb. 6 probably won't cause Gordon Campbell to lose much sleep. Sure he'll notice but he was, after all, voted into office with an unprecedentedly resounding majority vote. And while his public support has plummeted recently, he still has nearly four years before he has to call the next election.

Our democracy is sluggish in practice. The almighty vote, and the very limited choice it provides, comes around once every four years. Fewer and fewer of us bother haul our butts down to the polling station and vote for the most attractive candidate (or more likely vote against the least attractive party).

Then we're done. We have jumped through the hoop, taken part in the process, taken our places as cogs in the grand machine. We leave feeling a sense of civic pride, order a pint and watch Britney do the pregame show.

Shake it Britney.

But there are some of us who feel a niggling of conscience. We get up to do more. We go to Seattle or Quebec and we comfortably use acronyms like MAI and FTAA in social parlance and intelligent barroom rhetoric. We grow the beard, we buy organic and we live the life. We read Naomi Klein, we shout, we march, we paint placards and we feel better.

But seriously. Our protest Feb. 6 will fall in the wake of a series of protests against funding cuts and shredded collective agreements. The cries for maintaining the tuition freeze will likely go unnoticed. They've already decided. We've missed the boat again.

The ritual of protest has become more cliché than a threat. It has become a spectacle for the media, including *the Martlet*. We take photos and jump on for the ride especially if guys in black break shit. What fun. Major protests have become the focus of fleeting water cooler talk. Some say they're for, others are against the issue of the day, the topic gets a glossing and that's that.

It's just so easy this week for supporters of the student movement to slip into lip-service activism.

But (and this is a big but) maybe it's time to put the "active" back in activism.

You ask. What does this mean, damn you *Martlet*? What glib buffoonery are you spouting this week?

We mean, simply, exercise your rights regularly or your rights will atrophy.

While we don't hesitate to support and commend those who hit the streets on the Day of Action, we hope that they will carry that sentiment into further action. Creating the spectacle of protest requires a lot of work, but more importantly, for this protest to have an impact, students will have to do more legwork than marching around the legislature.

There are people who regularly burn themselves out writing letters and signing petitions. While these things rarely have a direct effect on public policy, they don't go unnoticed. They are a start and imagine if the few who organized such actions became many. What if all those in the streets Feb. 6 spent the same amount of energy that the few real active activists spend. It may mean one less night in the bar quaffing whiskey gingers and two-steppin to Outkast.

We take this lifestyle for granted.

Plan. Participate. Take action. Organize beyond structured protest events. Engage in greater discussion on campus and with the larger community. Initiate or support recall campaigns for local MLAs. Make those politicians accountable or take their power away.

Here's a thought: How many people marching on Feb. 6 know which Liberal MLA's constituency UVic falls in, let alone their representative's views on education?

Whether or not you support the political system, whether or not you voted for Campbell's clowns, the decisions they're making affect you directly and will continue to do so (for example, if you are in first year this year you will be paying double for tuition by your fourth year).

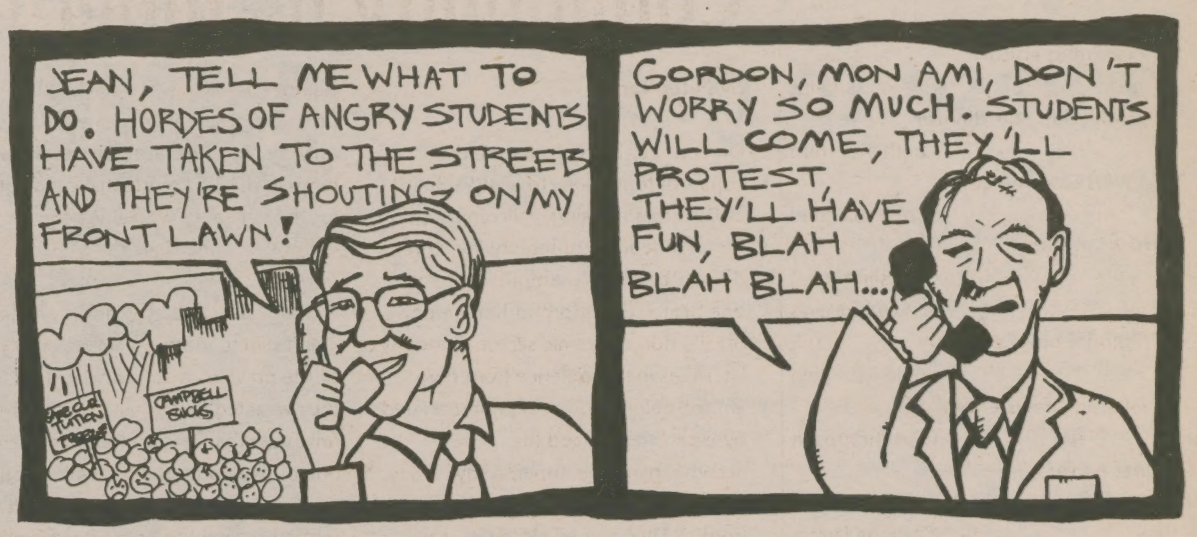
Protest should be a projection of a larger movement and a broader civic sentiment, otherwise you're fighting a cause without foundation. And with no foundation, there's little hope that Campbell and his cohorts, and those that will eventually take their place, will heed (y)our voices.

Why is an active person in a democracy called an activist, rather than a citizen?

If a democracy is working properly and vigorously, its citizens should be informed, engaged and, most importantly, active. Just imagine a world like that.

Editorial topics are decided on by staff at editorial meetings, every Monday at 12:30 p.m. in SUB b110a. Editorials are written by one or more staff members, and are not necessarily the opinion of all staff members.

Don't like what you read? Write, write, write, gimme gimme gimme: **martlet@uvic.ca**


JEAN, TELL ME WHAT TO DO. HORDES OF ANGRY STUDENTS HAVE TAKEN TO THE STREETS AND THEY'RE SHOUTING ON MY FRONT LAWN!
CAMPBELL SUCKS
GORDON, MON AMI, DON'T WORRY SO MUCH. STUDENTS WILL COME, THEY'LL PROTEST, THEY'LL HAVE FUN, BLAH BLAH BLAH...

LETTERS

229 pints later . . .

I cannot believe that the UVSS will not allow Canadian Blood Services (CBS) to book a room in the SUB for the walk-in clinic. Every time CBS comes I am so happy because so many students, including myself, are able to easily give blood in a way that fits their schedule and does not cause them to travel to the clinic. I realize the UVSS's position on CBS being discriminating against certain groups, however, I am not educated enough in the subject to decide if I agree or disagree with who they allow to give blood. I am a sociology major, not a med student. I do know that these groups are not discriminated against if they need to receive blood and to me that is more important. 229 pints of blood were collected from the last walk-in clinic; that means that 229 students gave blood. So I ask the UVSS to not make a decision for the 229 students who did give blood because someday you or I may need that blood. I am not asking you to give blood I am asking you to allow me and others to give blood at our school. Let the CBS book a room in the SUB. Please.

Jennifer Scott

Dispose with the disposable cups

Every time I see a person with a paper or plastic cup with a plastic lid on it walking around campus, my soul cringes. Just so one human can have one drink, this cup and lid (that, if plastic, polluted the planet through their manufacturing) will end up at the Heartland Dump or somewhere around campus, taking hundreds of thousands of years to decompose! Over half of the garbage produced by this university (faculty, staff and students) is cups and plastic lids, particularly coffee lids. For people who buy a drink in a disposable cup every day I ask you on behalf of the planet "Is your convenience more important to you than this miraculous planet that gives you your life in the first place?" Part of the problem is that you're provided with the option at the shops around campus. The solution however is too simple for us all not to reduce the campus' garbage by half: BRING YOUR OWN MUG!!! The cafes and cafeterias around campus have no problem with people using their own cups and mugs. In fact, because each cup and lid combined cost at least 25 cents (a fact that shops are beginning to advertise), with each drink purchased using your own mug, you'll save at least 25 cents!

You can get personal mugs at Subtext, soon at most campus cafes, or at many places around town. We can all easily make it happen, bringing my UVic New Year's resolution to reality: NO DISPOSABLE CUPS OR LIDS ON CAMPUS BY MARCH! Please, for the sake of the planet, include with your books and pens a mug that you bring with you every day. Thank you.

Lucas Goris

Pride response to CBS screening

We would like to respond to the Jan. 31 *Martlet* article, "Gay men barred from donating blood." While Ryan Barry is entirely welcome to make comments and express his opinions regarding the Canadian Blood Services (CBS) policies towards queer people, his views do not represent the stance of UVic Pride. As chairperson of the organization, I am in a position to assure the reader that the Pride Collective has not yet come to any solid consensus on the issue. What follows is another take on CBS policy.

The CBS screening method does not only affect the five percent of the population who are gay men, as the article may have led you to believe. The CBS donor questionnaire asks: "Male donors: Have you had sex with a man, even one time since 1977?" and: "Female donors: In the past 12 months, have you had sex with a man who had sex, even one time since 1977 with another man?" These questions automatically eliminate all bisexual men, men who are questioning or have questioned their sexuality, and many bisexual women from donating blood. This indicates that the number of people being shut out by CBS is far higher than five per cent. The major problem with this style of questioning is that it does not take into account safer sex practices or testing (like getting an HIV test twice a year, which *all* sexually active people should do if they know what's good for 'em).

Individuals presently at the highest risk of contracting AIDS in North America are straight, African-American women between the ages of 16 to 25. If the NAACP and ACLU were suddenly faced with the notion that black women as a group were unable to donate blood, the issue would appear entirely differently. People understand that this discrimination is not tolerable. It's not unreasonable to ask the CBS or the general public to consider the discrepancies here.

Austin, the community development coordinator for the CBS admits that the question is discriminatory but then justifies this discrimination. Drop the but – it IS discriminatory. We challenge the CBS to seek a new way of screening that accounts for the sexual PRACTICES of people (like whether they're safe or not, and how they communicate) rather than outdated notions of who is automatically at risk based on an identity group.

Ayla Lepine, UVic Pride chairperson and representative to UVSS Board of Directors, and Andrea Peneycad

Point of clarification on Pride views

Regarding "Gay men barred from donating blood," Jan. 31, 2002, page 5. It is a fine point of language that I am not a "spokesperson" for the Pride Collective but instead the publicity coordinator. The views in the article attributed to me are not those of the Pride Collective simply because the Pride Collective currently has no policy that I am aware of regarding Canadian Blood Services.

That, however, does not detract from my ability to speak as an authority on scientific, health and queer related issues. The factual information in the article is correct and my reasoning on blood donation is adequately portrayed.

Ryan Barry

UVSS constitution = frivolous policy

Most of you don't spend your free time reading the UVSS constitution, but I do and there are quite a few odd resolutions in the books. In the interest of time and space, I am going to concentrate on just one.

Our student society is against the Commonwealth Games because it represents "imperialism, colonialism, racism and genocide." I thought it brings people together to compete in sports . . . .

The ironic thing is that the UVSS has directly benefitted from the 1994 games being held in Victoria. Over 450 students live in Cluster and Family Housing built by the games and tens of "Spirit of . . ." buses ferry students to and from school everyday. What was the UVSS Board of Directors, your elected representatives, thinking?

In 1993 there was a resolution passed against the advertising and sale of personal security devices. My question is why? Why does our Board of Directors spend time drafting such frivolous policies? I say this: either kick those students out of their homes and onto the street and force us to walk to school, or ditch the policy. There are more important issues worth tackling, like how our student society is going to get our finances back on track.

Chuck Wootten

[2001/2002]
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UVic's Student Paper

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darren stewart
managing editor
lisa helps
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bethany smith
advertising director
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news editors
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contributors
caitlin croteau, dustin hawthorne, lisa jacobs, anna king, al newton, parminder nizher, mark samcoe, brooke taylor, misty therrien, john trenholme, peter verin, debbie willis, daniel woods, mark zimmer

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address
po box 3035, university of victoria
victoria, BC V8W 3P3
phone
newsroom/production: 721-8360
editors: 721-8361
advertising: 721-8359/884-7081
fax: 472-4556 or 721-8728

www.martlet.org martlet@uvic.ca

MONOLOGUE

Community member critiques VIPIRG

by Peter Verin

On Feb. 12, 2001, I submitted 12 copies of four pages to a UVSS Board of Directors meeting, soliciting support for an independent inquiry into three distinct bodies on campus – the main one being (the disproportionate power of) the non-academic sector. Eight days later reasonable defence from my limited belongings being appropriated by Dick Chappel and his accompanying swamper, Andy McGuire, resulted in me being banned from all UVic-owned buildings. Last Friday, Feb. 1, 2002, at 20 minutes to 2 p.m., I was startled by the same two principal property managers that have resulted in UVic being summoned to appear in court, which, given the restricted framework that the media and legal system operate within, is all the more reason to *put on record* that a third – preferably neutral – party be present to witness and inform the moment!

I'm presently waging half-a-dozen battles on campus. VIPIRG, while known to some is unfortunately unknown or little used by the student body – all of whom are automatically members and contribute over $80,000 to VIPIRG's budget. PIRG stands for (Vancouver Island) Public Interest Research Group and revolves around education, research, advocacy and action, pertaining to social justice and sustainability issues. Ralph Nader, the founder of PIRG, was initially America's premier consumer advocate. It was only much later that he represented himself as a US Presidential candidate for the Green Party. The Vancouver Island PIRG office is in the SUB, opposite the Women's Center.

I'm charging that VIPIRG's practices aren't different from what was charged to the previous management: That they've acted in bad faith during the time (less than a year) that I've been one of two community members on the Coordinating collective (COORD), formerly called the Board. I realize that charging unprofessional behaviour is serious. Without wishing to sound inaccessible, I use the term professional-ization, here, differently than un-professional behaviour, to describe the phenomena of Non-Governmental-Organizations (NGOs) and governments becoming self-serving at the expense of the purported services that they are to provide.

Common features or methods of securing self-satisfaction are: playing off against internal infrastructure (divide and conquer); expediting meetings; and obscuring lines of distinction, when they are needed to be present and accounted for. I neither wish to reduce issues to personalities nor untethered paradigms of power, to fragmented issues. If power is the strongest narcotic in our society, it is the least beneficial to be used for its own sake. Do governments and technology serve us, or are society and institutions – originally extensions and facilitators – replacements? Through leverage, authority, one-upmanship and face-saving are we humbled or humiliated?

In terms of globalization, it's technocracy, where someone's doing and deciding for you what you should be doing and deciding for yourself. The race to the bottom consists of lowering environmental standards sufficiently, so as to make one nation-state more attractive than another to predatory corporate interests: The corporate mentality hasn't understood that we all live downstream. Granted, NGOs exist within the operating economic paradigm, to which they inevitably pay lip service. But they need to vociferously distinguish themselves from charges of being merely socially or politically correct. There are no upper limits: vested interests will go to war to maintain the discrepancy that is at the heart of the "90 per cent practice, 10 per cent theory" dysfunction.

VIPIRG, unfortunately, even after the phenomenon was raised, is still acutely and blissfully unaware of the "professionalization of NGOs." So, a pre-sounded and preset agenda prevailed. The structurally recurring inconsistencies were noted throughout and documented: securing a "rubber-stamp" COORD; building an agenda around a student staff position by dividing nine COORD members who attended the retreat into distinct groups; staff appointing the Personnel Committee (that triples as a staff-coord liaison and Hiring Committee) with which they "felt comfortable," constituting a conflict of interest; expedited and relocated meetings, subverting consensual protocol; contrived job descriptions, a demographically (as opposed to a democratically) resistant COORD.

My concerns as a member were not addressed and attempts at securing greater accountability and criticality were met with condescension and charges of not being a group player. The other Community Member, in a two-page response to issues that I raised, said that the $1300 spent on a retreat in Parksville (in lieu of UVic's Cowichan property) was a result of me having been banned from UVic buildings. This is an oblique charge of ingratitude and disregard for the more sociable aspect of VIPIRG and group process. Using and silencing people, self-congratulation and a siege mentality are inadequate substitutes or rationales. VIPIRG is not exclusively about staff or job security or make-work projects, but also service, community and sustainability.

Cast an informed vote for an accountable and concerned COORD on Feb. 12 in the SUB foyer VIPIRG election.

SOAPBOX

When loud becomes noise

by Chris Bodenbender

Have you read the article "When Noise Annoys" in last week's *Monday Magazine*? Well, you should because it's really good. And if it didn't open your eyes and ears, maybe I can.

Did you ever notice that the commercials on tv are way louder than the tv series around them? Of course the reason being that if something is suddenly louder, it catches your attention. However, if an annoyance factor comes into play, the attention is not as intended but of a more negative kind.

Years ago in a German tv magazine somebody complained about the louder tv commercials. The network responded saying that the commercials are sent to them that way, so it's not their fault but the fault of the commercial producers.

Well, talk about a pathetic excuse. What do the sound technicians at the tv network get paid for then?! It's their job, dammit!

> Hm, maybe many people are so numb inside that they don't feel anything unless it blasts their eardrum and the bass makes their body shake.

But 'loud' is popular and so cool, isn't it. Everything has to be loud nowadays to give yourself some kind of rush and annoy the people around you. Even taste has to be loud, according to some stupid chips commercial. Part of a rebellion . . . against what? Your hearing? Kindness? Because other people might otherwise think that you are actually a nice person? (I had some really awful ghetto-blaster people living next door in residence. I still hate them and if I ever get into the position to . . . .)

Hm, maybe many people are so numb inside that they don't feel anything unless it blasts their eardrum and the bass makes their body shake. Which obviously makes you feel something, but where is the emotion? Not some hollow coolness feeling but an actual fulfilling emotion. Evidently not a goal of a loud culture.

Yes, I do go to concerts and dance clubs but not without my earplugs. However, it is a difference if it is loud at these places (which seems to be part of the deal and I accept that) or at someone's own private space due to some inconsiderate neighbour. Then 'loud' indeed becomes noise.

queer?

the Martlet's **queer issue** is coming up February 14th!

Want to submit? Articles, pictures, help with production, or anything else you feel might be appropriate? We know you want to . . . .

Give in to your urges: Submissions due by Monday at noon, production happens Tuesday and Wednesday. Help make the gayest *Martlet* of the year!

and remember: *the martlet* loves you!

life with depressio
manag

by Lisa Jacobs

For the past few months, Simone* began each day paralyzed with feelings of anxiety and self-doubt. Most days she couldn't even get out of bed.

"It's the worst feeling to wake up in the morning and the first thing you feel is this incredible anxiety," said Simone, a fourth-year humanities student at UVic. "I had no control over my day, no control over myself and no idea where to begin to fix things. I wept when I opened the fridge. I wept when I emptied the dishwasher. It was overwhelming. It came down to not knowing who I was anymore."

Simone's anxiety was matched by irritability, low energy, sleeplessness and weight loss. For the second time in less than four years she experienced serious depression. The first bout occurred in her final year of high school. Leaving home gave her the lift she needed to disentangle herself from her feelings of isolation. But now her current preoccupation with socializing left her with the same feelings of emptiness.

"I love giving love," said Simone. "But when I am depressed I can't because I feel so empty inside. People would love me but I had nothing to give them back because I didn't feel it was part of my nature. It was very imprisoning."

Simone's symptoms are typical of what is labelled "clinical depression," a condition that goes far beyond simply having the "blues." Symptoms can last from several weeks to several years with varying depths of despair.

In 1990 approximately 17 per cent of students seeking help from Counselling Services at the University of Victoria listed depression as a concern. By 2001 that number nearly doubled to almost 35 per cent. Last year, students ranked depression as the third most important issue they wanted help with, following stress and anxiety, and problems with friends or relationships.

"Many students who ticked 'depression' on the intake form were not what we would consider clinically depressed," said Dr. Joseph Parsons, psychologist and director of Counselling Services. "But a fair and growing number are."

The increase in numbers prompted Parsons and his staff to hold a depression counselling group last July. They expected the summer timing to generate a low response but all of the spaces were filled. Two more groups were run this past fall and again, all spaces taken. Another two are offered this term.

Depression can have a devastating impact on all aspects of a student's life.

"People really talk about feeling fuzzy, not being able to take in any concept or comprehend," said career counsellor Tricia Best. "Career planning takes a lot of introspection, energy and decision-making. Depression makes it really difficult to do these things."

Veronika Muendel, 27, is a third-year student in the Child and Youth Care program. When she was 18 she was diagnosed with clinical depression after she spent a week in bed.

"It's very hard being a student who deals with depression. I usually don't let the professor know until it's too late. By then they have already formed their opinion that I'm a lazy student who doesn't show up to classes. On the outside it may look like this but in reality I may be having a hard time getting out of bed and battling with myself to get to campus."

This kind of interference in academic life prompts Dr. William Dyson, physician and director of Health Services on campus, to offer students anti-depressant medication if they show up at his office saying they have felt depressed for more than a three week period.

"If a person comes in depressed they are usually unable to focus their attention on their school work and can't complete assignments," he said. "That's an emergency."

It is an emergency because Dr. Dyson believes students pay an extremely high price for depression. Incomplete courses result in students dropping out.

Career goals are compromised and every extended year costs more tuition and another year away from the workforce. Students often ask him if they "really have to take the medication" and he tells many of them that they don't have to if they can afford the time.

"It would be a disservice to those people who can be treated very quickly and who can return very quickly to really suggest to them that they try a lot of other things first," he said. "We have to try to get them back and functioning academically as quickly as possible."

Dr. Sylvain Boise, a psychologist with Counselling Services, leads a depression group. He believes that while medications can and have saved some people's lives, reaching for them too quickly can mask many underlying causes of depression, such as normal but challenging issues around identity, relationships, levels of acceptance and self-esteem.

"[Students] start to wonder, 'Why am I being excluded? What's wrong with me?' Some students sail through these issues, while others feel deep growing pain which can trigger depression."

Dr. Boise and many of his colleagues use a cognitive behaviour approach to help students deal with the distorted and negative thoughts. Depressed persons, he says, often think through a gray filter where everything comes out looking bleak. He helps students become conscious of how they are talking to themselves at the moment and make changes.

Despite their different approaches, Dr. Boise and his colleagues have both referred and sometimes accompanied students to Health Services for a medical assessment. Likewise, Dr. Dyson from Health Services regularly refers some of his patients to Counselling Services for psychotherapy.

The issue of medication is a controversial one. A recent study reported in the Journal of American Medical Association found that in the US, medications, which were prescribed to about a third of patients in 1987, were given to almost three-quarters of patients a decade later. Drugs like Prozac have become the mainstay for the vast majority of those being treated, even though research shows that forms of psychotherapy are as effective and combining psychotherapy and medicines are often the most effective of all.

Concerns are currently being raised about one drug called Paxil, the most commonly prescribed anti-depressant in Canada in 2000. With about three million prescriptions filled, Paxil is touted as having very good results with anxiety disorders, anxiety components of depression and obsessive compulsive disorders.

Last summer two class action suits were laid against the makers of Paxil, GlaxoSmithKline. Both suits alleged that the drug is addictive and the company failed to inform patients of the withdrawal effects once treatment is stopped. The pharmaceutical giant recently issued a warning to US and Canadian physicians to gradually take their patients off Paxil because of adverse reactions that some patients say include electric-like shocks, pain, dizziness, nausea, fever and anorexia.

Paxil is prescribed to students at the UVic's health services.

"Supposedly these symptoms abate after about two weeks, but if you increase the dose they will reappear," said Dr. Dyson. "I have to say that we recognize that this degree of side effect is unacceptable if you are a student. I often hear doctors in the community tell me that they tell their patients that they will have two weeks of hell and then they will be fine. But we don't want our students to suffer, so we start them with a very low-dose."

In cutting down the dosage to minimize side-effects, Dr. Dyson said they discovered that some patients got along fine and students had the added benefit of cutting the cost by filling half the prescription. He does feel that they were not properly informed regarding the withdrawal symptoms.

"I think it is fair comment to be critical of the fact that we may not have been adequately advised that withdrawal from Paxil in particular would be as difficult as it has turned out to be. We have, however, found a fairly reasonable way of getting around most

*Simone is a pseudonym

n...
ing each day

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Exercise, a balanced, healthy diet, and opening up to other people are some of the most effective ways of dealing with depression. Last year the students seeking aid from UVic's counselling services ranked depression as the third most important issue they wanted help with.

of these difficulties for most people."

That method is to start patients on another anti-depressant, like Prozac, then slowly withdraw the Paxil. Dr. Dyson said that this results in few, if any, side effects, and people can withdraw from Prozac more easily.

Muendel said she's tried almost all of the anti-depressant medications available and has experienced many side effects, including dry throat, headaches, hallucinations and withdrawal shakes. In the end, Prozac proved best at allowing her to manage daily living.

"Other medications helped a little but the difference was night and day with Prozac," Muendel said, adding that Prozac helps her focus and gives her the ability to motivate herself more easily.

But medications aren't enough. Muendel regularly attends counselling sessions and says a behaviour modification group has helped her immensely to restructure her negative and compulsive thinking. On her own, she makes an effort to get out and be physically active and express herself through arts and crafts.

"I just take out paper and paints and go wild on my own. And hanging out with friends can do a real 360° with me."

Muendel believes that she has a heavy genetic predisposition towards depression. Her grandmother has been manic-depressive her whole life, her mother suffered from depression for a couple of years in her 20s, and she has a distant cousin who is schizophrenic.

"In that regard, I'm from the standpoint now that I'm like a diabetic who needs insulin. I need medication to function. It's my chemical make-up. There are people out there who will disagree but they aren't living in my headspace. They don't know the difference that it makes."

The choices students make regarding treatment depend on several factors including the severity of their symptoms, whether or not they have supportive friends and family and whom they seek help from.

Simone, like many depressed students has chosen to try to overcome her depression without medication, despite being tempted to try them. She's currently following a self-developed program, based on her own research, to stabilize her moods. It includes a heavy emphasis on eating a balanced diet, getting regular exercise and choosing three friends to open up to. She's also carefully monitoring and trying to change her way of thinking about herself and her perceptions of others towards her.

"When I lie in bed, seized by feelings of self-doubt, I have to constantly say to myself that I am not going to let my thoughts control me. It's like a physical workout. I have to keep saying when I get negative messages 'I am going to let this go. I am going to let this go.' It's like a mantra and I slowly make room for more productive thoughts," she said.

Two weeks ago Simone woke up for the first time in a very long time without feeling anxious. All day she waited for the low feelings to come back. The next day her anxiousness returned but eventually she was able to maintain a sense of stability.

"I had to remind myself that I would get out of this," Simone said. "This is a journey I am on. Today I accept the simple fact that I feel good and I welcome it. You have to. And the nicest thing is that I feel I can love again."

Less schmoozing, more boozing

by Elianna Lev and Anne Larrass

The only thing Victoria and Hollywood have in common is that they are both on the West Coast. The similarities stop there.

This is especially true when it comes to anything that has to do with a gala. Which brings us to last Friday's Victoria Independent Film and Video festival opening night gala and awards ceremonies, which took place at the swanky Laurel Point Inn. But swanky it was not. A gala without an open bar is not swanky. A gala with a desperate lack of free food is not swanky. A gala where the awards ceremonies took less than four minutes is NOT swanky. Stars, couture and snorting rails in the bathroom is what you'd except at the typical film festival gala. None of these were present on Friday.

But, after all, it is Victoria. It's humbling in a way. We pride ourselves on being . . . well, Victoria. We don't have the glamour that brings the stars north to the Toronto Film Festival or the glitz that brings them to the one in Montreal. So what does Victoria have when it comes to film festivals?

A beautiful view onto the Inner Harbour and a great Commitments-style high school jazz band. They were the one redeeming quality of the evening, filling the room with rich voices, displaying well-choreographed moves and playing such classics as "Mustang Sally" and funky James Brown stuff. It made us wonder, "When the hell did high school students become so confident?" The female back-up singers, all decked out in slinky black dresses, had the moves down, leaving all the older men in the audience quite pleased.

Aside from that, we noticed a desperate lack of schmoozing opportunities. Dinner beforehand would have been a good idea.

Being university arts editors and all, who wouldn't want to rub shoulders with us? Well, one guy did. He was from Telefilm Canada. He told us all about his trip to Cairo and how he's still adjusting to Vancouver's lifestyle. We didn't exchange cards though.

Okay, maybe we're being harsh. It's probably because we didn't get as wasted as we'd hoped to.

photo by Daniel Woods

Having fun yet? Arts editors Anne Larrass and Elianna Lev have a laugh at the Film Festival opening night gala.

But we have to give credit to the whole concept of the festival, which is to promote Canadian films. *Lola*, a movie shot in British Columbia and produced by Laura Lightbown, shows off highly unique and skilled camera work, beautiful landscape and excellent acting, and earned the title of Best Feature.

This year is a good opportunity to support Canadian filmmakers, since 66 per cent of the films featured at this event are Canadian.

Even though the festival is international, we were surprised that they opened with the fairly mainstream American film *The Man from Elysian Fields*. The plot was hardly original and even less intriguing.

But the film festival is only six years old and probably has a lot more to learn from its older cousins Sundance and Cannes. At least next year, if we're invited back (which we won't be), we'll know to expect to pay $5 for a glass of wine and we'll be prepared to elbow our way to the bacon-wrapped meatballs.

GIFTS of film

by Caitlin Croteau

If you're a film buff you've probably already experienced some of this year's Victoria Independent Film and Video Festival (Feb. 1-12).

Perhaps you've "schmoozed" with the indy filmmakers, attended the awards gala, participated in a few workshops and checked out the feature films. What you may not have heard about is the great selection of short films screening all over the city.

Some of these short films were produced at the Gulf Islands Film and Television School (GIFTS) on Galiano Island. A short that came out of GIFTS in 2000, entitled *She Waits*, is showing on Friday, Feb. 8, in the "Cruel and Demanding" short film program at Herman's, a jazz bar located on View Street (7 p.m.). *She Waits* is an experimental drama that explores a young woman's anxiety while she sits in a hospital waiting area. This award-winning short has screened at the Toronto International Teen Movie Festival and GIFTS' own annual Eyelens Film and Video Festival. *She Waits* was shot in four days on digital video by four local young women: Carly Vanderbasch, Amanda Letang, Vanessa Jones and myself.

On Tuesday night other GIFTS films were screened as part of a special program called "INVISION" which allows B.C. film schools to showcase their best works. Included in this program were a variety of movie styles, including *Buddy In One Minute* (J. Gray, R. Winsor), a short made for the web, pokes fun at beer commercials, and *It Hurts Because You're Weak* (J. Picton, B. Miller, G. Lonergan), one of GIFTS' more amusing documentaries, explores the world of crazy stunts.

Most of these films were made during GIFTS week-long media-intensive summer program. In six days students write, direct, film and edit one or two 5-7 minute short pieces which are then screened at the end of the week for family and friends. For a week students live, breath, sleep and eat movie-making. As one student (Todd Cowman) puts it, the GIFTS experience is "an experience that has to be lived to be believed". (Plus they have amazing vegetarian cuisine!)

If you'd like more information about GIFTS or would like to see any of the movies mentioned above you can check them out at www.giftsfilms.com, call (250)539-5729 or email gifts@gulfislands.com.

The queer connection – looking for an A+ date

by Elianna Lev

Going on a date is a pretty unconventional way to get university credits but that's what three UVic students are hoping to do. Texas, Beebo and Puck (um, not their real names) are looking for queer, bisexual and transgendered folk who are willing to go on blind dates and be filmed for a video of the outcome. Rodger Lodge, anyone?

Not quite. Although the three are genuinely excited to go on dates with interested participants, this queer dating show is for a class project for Women's Studies 321, Sinister Wisdom.

"The point is produce and raise queer visibility," said Puck. "The proliferation of dating shows on television right now is astronomical. But there's never been a queer dating show."

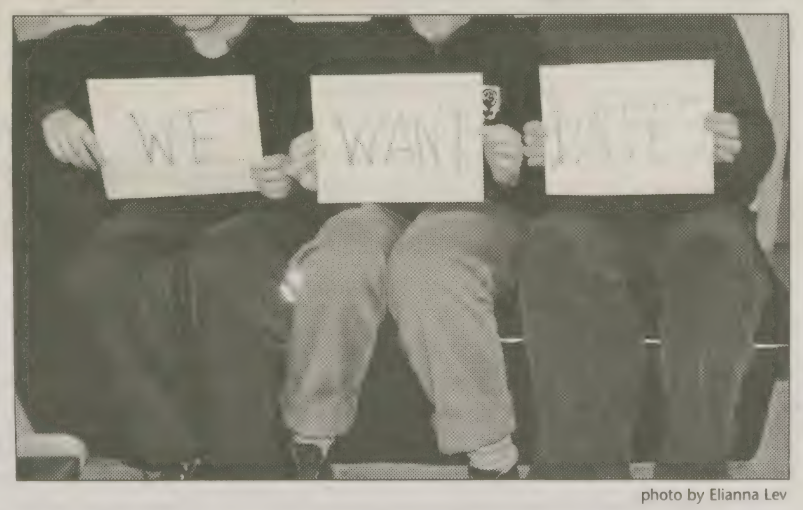


photo by Elianna Lev

They. Want. Dates. They also want an A+ in their Women Studies class.

"Plus we wanted to get dates," added Beebo.

So what can someone looking for a date expect from this queer dating show?

Puck, the rambunctious one, wants to go to the Ogden Point Cafe and then have a rowdy game of laser tag. "I'm looking for someone who cultures their own eccentricities."

Texas, the theoretical romantic, prefers to go to the observatory to look at the stars.

"I'm looking for someone who gets excited about theory, likes going for breakfast and likes riding a bike."

Beebo would like to take her date to the mall and then perhaps for a quick visit to the photo booth, if the date goes well.

"I want someone who is excited about themselves," she said.

"And if anyone who wants to go on a date with us has tech skills, they can help us make the show," said Puck. "That could be one of the dates."

Potential dates should keep in mind that first and foremost, the dating game is a class project and the ladies hope to make it as "professional looking as possible." But if there's chemistry the women are open to it.

The women applying to go on dates should "have a sense of humour and a spirit of fun." said Puck. "I think all of us are seriously willing to date these people but it's more of a fun experience."

But if they don't get any response than they'll get their friends to go on dates with them. And, if all else fails, one selling factor bound to attract applicants: they're paying.

Texas, Puck and Beebo are accepting applications via email at hotqueerz@monkey-love.co.uk until Feb. 14.

Eccentric mysteries of life with a penguin

by Mark Zimmer

Death and the Penguin is a powerfully original novel written by a relative newcomer to the contemporary Russian literary scene. Bearing many of the familiar hallmarks of Russian literature – suffering, long dark winters and endurance – *Death and the Penguin* is a strikingly unique work.

The protagonist, Viktor Alekseyevich Zolotaryov, is a writer recently separated and struggling to find work in his field. As he attempts to reclaim his voice, Misha, a penguin, keeps him company. Viktor finally gets his long awaited break when the editor-in-chief of a major newspaper commissions Viktor to write obituaries of Kiev's VIP's prior to the death of their subjects.

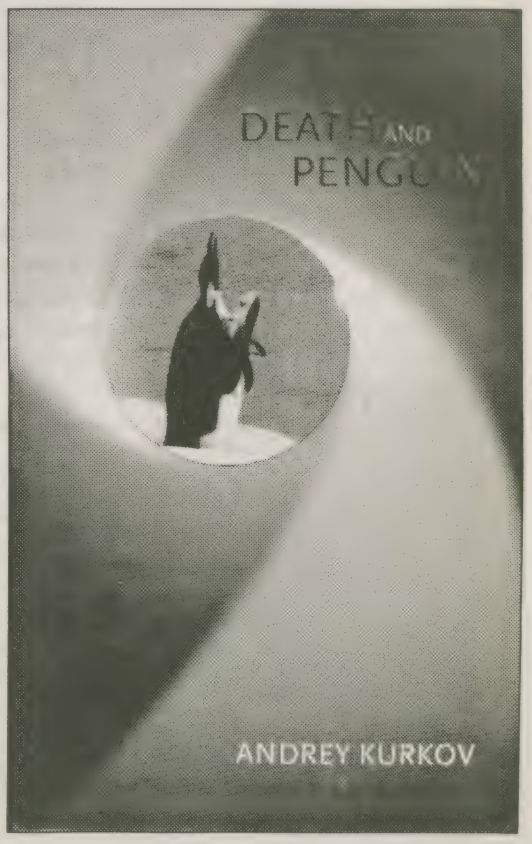
Though Viktor writes obituary after obituary, his subjects continue to cling to life. When he does finally see his work published, Viktor begins to suspect there is much more to his obituaries than a parting epitaph to Kiev's dignitaries. Viktor and his penguin are drawn inexorably into a trap from which there seems to be no way out. As his terror grows into a state of unavoidable paranoia, Viktor's obligations increase.

Kurkov's main strength is his ability to write with typical Eastern-European sententiousness without being long-winded or didactic. His prose demonstrates a lyrical quality that allows the reader real insight into the Russian character. The penguin, as Viktor's constant companion, provides an excellent foil for Viktor's rather melancholic character. Though absurd, the penguin allows Viktor's self musings a poignant quality that would otherwise be almost impossible to attain. Perhaps the most telling line in the entire novel is also the most cliché: "Harnessed as he was, it was a question of hauling his load until he dropped. So he hauled."

The characters and their emotions are very convincing if occasionally absurd (e.g. Misha the penguin). Though overshadowed by the ever-present possibility of death, Viktor possesses the ability to recognize subtle beauties and marvels. Even the smallest of sun rays may be potent reminders of the joy to be found in the world.

With a small cast of players and an even smaller list of events Kurkov manages a kind of prestidigitation wherein the terror of nameless threats and the possible mental breakdown of the protagonist become a driving force that asks the reader to read and read until the end is finally reached.

Kurkov's feat is no small endeavour and he reworks the notions of immanent death, the threat of poverty and writers block into a cunning portrait of a man on the edge of understanding. Though not a typical mystery, *Death and the Penguin* will keep readers guessing until the very end. This book is not for those who would read only to be cheered, however, *Death and the Penguin* has something to offer any fan of eccentric mysteries or the Russian Experience.



Celebrating the inherent diversity of Capoeira

by Joanna Wong

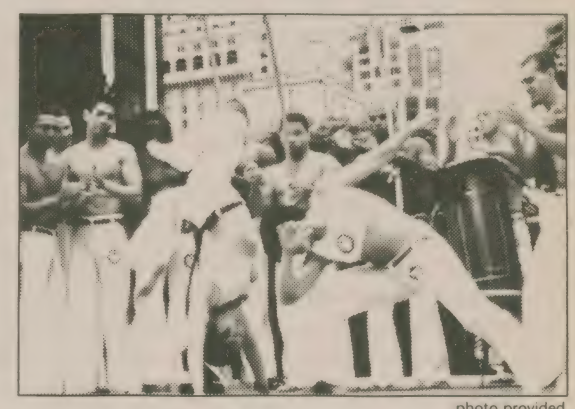


photo provided

Fancy moves, hot stuff. Capoeira pros in action.

Riddle me this: I am dancing and I am music, yet I am a fight. I am potentially lethal, yet I am a playful game. I am a brother of boxing and a sister of acrobatics.

What am I?

"I" am Capoeira, an Afro-Brazilian art of the body that expresses itself in an enigmatic language of kicks, cartwheels and flowing movements.

Trying to figure out exactly what Capoeira is can be a bit like solving a children's riddle.

"The unique thing about Capoeira is that it is a globe that encompasses many aspects – music, dance and fighting," said Kevin Brett, a Victoria-based instructor of the art. "Take one of these aspects out and you don't have Capoeira."

Brett has taught this dynamic martial art at his academy on Yates Street, Grupo Axe Capoeira, for the past three years. He has trained for seven years with Vancouver-based Master (Mestre) Barrão, a native Brazilian responsible for bringing the art to Canada in 1992.

Capoeira is played in a circle called a *roda* and is accompanied by the music of a tambourine or pandeiro, a heavy floor drum called attabaque and a berimbau, a bow-shaped one-stringed instrument with a gourd attached near the bottom. The players dance in pairs inside the roda, supported by the hypnotic clapping and spirited singing of their fellow Capoeiristas.

"It's a way of life, a whole culture, a strategy to deal with different situations," said Brett." That's what makes it so appealing to people."

The rich and dramatic past of this Afro-Brazilian martial art only makes for further intrigue. Capoeira, a blend of various dances and fights created by African slaves living in Brazil over 400 years ago, has had a long history of suppression. The practice of the art was officially banned in 1814, when Portuguese masters and overseers became wary of what appeared to be a growing tightly-knit community of agile, deadly fighters.

Brazil officially liberated its slaves in the late 19th century. However, the new-found freedom of Afro-Brazilians proved to be worthless as they continued to be excluded and pushed to the margins of society. Capoeira quickly became associated with criminality, a stigma it did not overcome until the 1970s, decades after it had become legal. Today, Capoeira is Brazil's favorite sport after soccer and is being considered as a demonstration sport for the next Olympic games.

Partly due to this troubled history, Capoeira emphasizes flexibility and improvisation over direct confrontation. A game, or *jogos*, of Capoeira must be seen to be believed. The players bodies' will bend and twist, transcending limbs into back arches or other ambitious, pretzel-like positions. Then with the greatest of ease, a player may suddenly leap up into an impressive, elegant backflip or no-handed cartwheel. These defensive, aggressive, exploratory or deceitful movements are questions and answers in the language of Capoeira.

Capoeira's difficult past has also nurtured a philosophy of solidarity. Students are expected to maintain the integrity of the art by learning to sing the many songs, to play the instruments and to speak Portuguese. Students are also taught about the issues and poverty facing today's Brazilians. Much work has been done by Grupo Axe Capoeira to fund raise for the education of impoverished fellow Capoeiristas in Mestre Barrão's hometown of Recife. Brett firmly believes in the positive influences of being exposed to Brazilian culture.

"People feel beautiful when they do Capoeira and you carry that feeling with you," said Brett.

Students are quick to agree.

"I'm always wanting to do cartwheels," said UVic student Robin Parfitt, who started Capoeira four months ago. "It's changed the way I walk, the way I dance, the way I move my body."

This Sunday, Victoria will have a chance to solve the riddle that is Capoeira and experience it for themselves. The second annual Capoeira Batizado and Troco da Corda (literally translated as "Baptism and Belt Exchange") will celebrate student's achievements in Capoeira and feature performances of a variety of folk dances and an open *roda* where local, Brazilian and international Capoeiristas will play.

"You can't explain Capoeira," said Brett. "You just have to see."

The Grupo Axé Capoeira Batizado and Troco de Corda will be held Sunday, Feb. 10, at Vic High Auditorium (1260 Grant Street). Doors open at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the Axé Capoeira Academy (719A Yates), The Patch (719 Yates) and Club Phoenix (2122-A Government). For more information call (250) 382-8891. Grupo Axé Capoeira trains Monday-Friday at the Academy, 7-9 p.m.

The Pricks – Victorian punk rock par excellence

photo provided

Mummy? Daddy? I want you to meet my new boyfriends . . .

by Dustin Hawthorne

I awake to the sound of my cell phone. "Dustin, it's Dustin Jak, did I wake you up?" I look at the clock and see that it is 10:00 a.m. "Uh, no," I reply, lying blatantly, as my brain feels like it was going to explode from last night's debauchery. "How was the show?" he asks. "Uh, I can't really remember, good I think," I reply. "Cool man, we still on for the interview today? How does two sound?" he asks.

"Sounds good, I'll see you then." I hang up the phone and go back to sleep for another three hours. Upon arriving at a tattoo shop where Dustin works, I listen to him talk about some sticky situations involving law enforcement and old punk shows from Victoria's past. Willy Jak finally rolls in about half an hour late and looks a little weary, probably suffering from a bitter hangover like mine. Considering the shots of Jack Daniel's we drank together last night, I think I'm correct.

Established in 1996 as a side project of Willy Jak, the Pricks are a group of three veteran Victoria punkers whose punk resume is as impressive as B.C.'s deficit. Over the years the Pricks have encountered some changes in membership but have now nailed up a solid line.

There is Rentsnorter who hits things, mainly drums, and has been a member of legendary Victoria punk bands such as Shutdown and the Excessives.

Willy Jak plays the guitar and sings and was a member of The Black Market Fruits. He currently plays bass for the Dayglo Abortions.

Their bassist, Dick Prick who also sings, used to be a member of Victoria's Bitchunt.

With influences like ZZTop, Slayer, Fang, D.R.I, or anything with guitars that rock hard, the Pricks chew them up and spit out a brand of music that epitomizes punk rock. Four on the floor and in your face, they leave you gasping for air while relentlessly pummeling you with power chords and distortion, yet taking melody and harmony into consideration. A fine blend of misfits-esque raw edge and The New York Dolls catchiness.

When I catch these boys in action, there is a feeling of absolute chaos: bodies flying around and pint glasses whizzing by my head. As I stood three feet away from the stage at Thursday's Pub watching them perform I couldn't help but notice the impending sense of danger but loved every second of it. "Ah, the punk rock I used to know and love so greatly," I thought to myself. *Check the Pricks out on Feb. 8 at the Cambie with Death Sentence, The Felchers, Alcoholic White Trash and The Staggers.*

The Vaginas are coming!

by Victoria Bowman

Warning: this article contains anatomical terminology some people may find offensive.

graphic by Joanna Wong

Vagina. It's a tough word. The vagiinaaah. It sounds like an evil character from a science fiction novel. Certainly vagina is not an endearing term for one's private parts, not like pee-pee or winkle, Shirley Temple or Sherman Sponge Bum. Neither is vagina ambiguous, at least front bum goes with back bum, same as number one goes with number two. Vagina sounds wet and dark. Vagina lends itself to a curling of the lip, a wince, a whisper perhaps. Definitely at the very least a snicker. Vaagiinaaaaaah.

"I bet you're worried. We were worried. We were worried about vaginas."

Yet these people seem used to it. Vagina rolls off their tongues smooth and buttery, spoken with nonchalance like 'elbow' or 'jellyfish.' The women sit, perched on stools, staring down the spotlight that floods them with a brilliant warm glow.

"Get those chairs out of the way, all I can see is the reflection of the chrome," someone hollers from the rear of the theatre.

"Women secretly love to talk about their vaginas," one of the spot-lit women practices. "Maybe it's because nobody's ever asked them before." They are in dress rehearsal for the show taking place at UVic this Thursday, Friday and Saturday night. The *Vagina Monologues* are coming to town.

Written by Eve Ensler, the play was originally produced in 1996 and later published as a book. The monologues are based on Ensler's interviews with women, mainly in the United States, of various ages and orientations. It explores the vagina from these different perspectives. The script has been used in V-Day benefit performances around the world.

V-Day, a global movement to stop violence against women and girls, is typically celebrated around Valentine's Day in February. People produce theatrical and artistic events and dedicate the proceeds to local anti-violence organizations.

V-Day aims to transform ways of thinking about violence, using humour and creativity to raise money and awareness. UVic's V-Day is part of the American College Campaign. The earnings from *Vagina Monologues* will go to three local organizations and one international one: Victoria Women's Sexual Assault Centre, Prostitutes' Empowerment and Education Resource Society, Open UVic Resource Sexual Assault Centre and Revolutionary Afghanistan Women's Association.

As part of the V-Day College campaign three volunteers from the UVic production traveled to Long Beach, Ca., last October to participate in a workshop with Ensler. Nina Purewal, one of the volunteers, said it was a day full of "vagina activities."

"At the beginning all of our vaginas had to do an action. The point was for us to get comfortable with our vaginas so we could lead people back home and not be going through it ourselves."

Ensler encouraged the delegates to bring their own interpretations to the monologues and to be diverse in who they approach to be in the production. "The hardest part," said Purewal, "was moaning in front of 150 people I didn't know."

Five women instigated the V-day project at UVic but their numbers quickly blossomed to a core of 30 and continue to grow as more people hear about the event.

"Part of the drawing factor for people are the issues we address, but people are also into the *Vagina Monologues* because they're fun and creative," said Eren Ryding, 21, a volunteer. People are also interested in talking about vaginas because many grew up not doing so. "I said vagina more in my first two weeks volunteering on this project than I had in my entire life before," said Ryding.

This is part of the appeal of the *Vagina Monologues*: not only is it a good cause, but with intriguing trailers like "If your vagina could talk, what would it say" and "The woman who loved to make vaginas happy," and the rumour of multiple orgasms, AND the chance to hear the word vagina more than ever before in one's life, it sounds like a darn good way to spend an evening.

The Vagina Monologues

When: Feb. 7-9, 2002
Where: David Lam Auditorium (MacLaurin Building A144)
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Activities, including a silent auction, information booths and music, will start at 6:30 p.m.
Tickets are available for Feb. 7, 8 and 9 at the UVic Bookstore, $10 - $20, sliding scale.

Multiple Orgasms: A tribute to vaginas

When: Feb. 14, 2002
Where: Velox Rugby Club, across from the Ian Stewart Complex (formerly known as Gordon Head)
An anti-Valentine night of music, dance, juggling and poetry to celebrate vaginas and V-Day.

The art of film festival posters

by John Trenholme

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Film festival posters have come into their own as objets d'art.

"Seats For Sale – Art for Show," an exhibit of movie posters that opened Jan. 31 at the Maltwood Art Museum & Gallery in the University Centre, reflects on the 'artistic temperament' of film events over time.

Those who attended the opening reception had their attention quickly drawn to this year's Victoria Independant Film and Video Festival archetype: the half-naked man with the film wrapped around him.

The ubiquitous poster in question is no secret. Since the new year thousands of copies have been affixed to every bus shelter and punchboard in the greater Victoria area, heralding the city's sixth annual Independent Film and Video Festival.

The interactive 'Seats For Sale – Art For Show' exhibition urges its visitors to note the weighty dimensions of film festival posters, rather than dismiss them as merely marketing tools.

'Seats For Sale – Art for Show' features film festival posters from more than 40 countries. Each poster is a study in the cultural context of the event and the promotional angle chosen. When marketing motivations and artistic visions clash, the result is an eclectic collection of works.

Yorkton, Sask., is home to Canada's oldest festival and the 1998 edition poster playfully celebrates this heritage. A personified cartoon-style cow stands suitcase in tow on a railroad platform at sunset, his train chugging into the station. The prairie sun setting on the wheat fields lends the poster a light-hearted yet timeless quality.

This year's Sithengi (South Africa) Film Festival poster is patriotic as well but is infused with a more pressing political message. A rural black woman holds a video recorder in her palm, pointed absently at the hilly landscape over her shoulder.

Other cities bring different themes to their posters. Ajijic, Mexico, borders the country's largest lake, Chapala, and the 1999 poster for the Ajijic Film Festival was designed to promote awareness of growing ecological concerns for the area's aquatic life.

Vancouver, a city that professes to convey "the international flavour of film" at its festival every year, features a gentleman and a priest wandering the alleys of an old European village.

The use of film reel is also an oft-employed film festival poster motif. Nashville's festival poster features a guitar outline on an intergalactic background, while that of Bristol, England's is an up-close look at a thread of reel wound about a fork like a pasta noodle.

But what is the story behind this year's Victoria poster, of an unidentified young man wrapped in the medium?

"We just thought it represents the passion that filmmaking takes," said Kathy Kay, festival director and designer of this year's poster. "The idea of the film pouring from his heart reflects the commitment level and the emotional level devoted to the making of a film."

Graphic designers Raymond Bruvold and Arifin Graham brought the concept to completion.

"We're an independent festival, so we're not stuck on the faces of mainstream film," said Kay to explain the image of the artist's face thrust back in the shadows. "He is bearing his heart. He is exerting himself."

The exhibition runs until Feb. 12 and is open weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and weekends from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. The New VI has donated a Speakers Corner booth for the event, encouraging the public to voice their opinions.

Slide show brings Tibet to UVic

by Jeff Andrew

Photography buffs and anyone interested in Himalayan culture take note: the majesty and mystery of Tibet will be on display this Thursday, Feb. 7, as UVic plays host to a slide show focusing on the extremes of life in modern-day Tibet.

The pictures are the work of Marion Tipple, a charity worker and president of the Trans Himalayan Aid Society (THAS). Tipple spent a month last fall exploring Lhasa, Tibet's capital, and the surrounding areas. She is part of a worldwide network of activists and charity workers trying to bring relief to those living atop the Tibetan plateau. In her presentation, she hopes to give students a sense of the disparities of life in present-day Tibet.

"The slide show contrasts modern-day Lhasa with nomad life in the valleys – showing the two extremes of modern Tibetan living," she said.

Dr. Tipple is well suited to speak about Tibet. Through her own travels and her work with THAS, a charitable group dedicated to building communities and providing health care and education to people in need in the Himalayas, she has been to Tibet nine times. This has lead her to see the many different sides of life in the highest country in the world.

The people living in rural Tibet are among the poorest in the world. Although the last 50 years of Chinese occupation have brought automobiles and electricity to the cities, the Tibetan people remain an impoverished minority in their own country. One of Dr. Tipple's goals is to raise awareness of the problems Tibet is currently facing.

"I feel it is important for people to realize the reality of Tibet today," she said. "We all have romantic notions of Shangri-La. Unfortunately it is not like that. The main cities in Tibet are now overwhelmingly Chinese with Tibetans in the minority. Lhasa is now a modern city with many shops, skyscrapers and cell-phones."

But Tipple and the THAS are charity workers rather than political activists. To continue being allowed to do the work they do, it is essential that they stay away from the ongoing political struggle between the Tibetans and the ruling Chinese. Tipple is quick to point out that her travels to Tibet, which are self-financed, and her work with the THAS is the result of a deep love of the Tibetan people and culture.

"I go because I love Tibet and its people. Their spirituality, compassion and resolution in the face of adversity is incredible - something we can all learn from."

Marion Tipple will be presenting her pictures this Thursday, Feb. 7, at 7:30 p.m. in HSDA Rm. 240. Admission is $5 for students; all proceeds go to the Trans Himalayan Aid Society.

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We have everything you need...
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472-0513

Fairway Market

Carlie's Dollar Store
472-3382

Calling all Cards
721-5660

Bagga Pasta
477-0112

Canada Trust
477-7216

Mac's Cycle Centre
477-7612

Peoples Drug Mart
477-1881

Squeaky's Laudromat
721-2420

Shelbourne Plaza Drugs
477-1881

Liquor Distribution Branch
952-4328

Swedish Bakery & Cake Shop
477-6731

Scotia Bank
953-8025

Ensign Travel & Cruise
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A&W Restaurant
477-1996

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19 MERCHANTS & SERVICES TO SERVE YOUR NEEDS

The successes of Brad Cran

by Debbie Willis

photo by Brian Howell

The way the crowd nudges into each other to get a look at the stage at Thursday's Pub, it would seem anyone but an unassuming poet had approached the microphone. The man, who comes off as a "guy's guy" with some sensitivity underlying his exterior, adjusts his mike and looks out at the throng of hundreds squeezed into the pub, most of whom are university students, poetry and music lovers. None of whom would have been there if it hadn't been for that young poet, Brad Cran.

Cran is a contributing editor to Geist magazine, co-editor of the book and cd *Why I Sing the Blues*, a photographer, a poet and one of the founders and owner of Smoking Lung Press, which has published many of the West Coast's most promising young writers. Not bad, considering he is only 29.

Why I Sing the Blues is the second full-length book Smoking Lung has published since its inception in 1997. Until lately it has mainly published chapbooks by new writers. The blues anthology is the brainchild of Cran's co-editor, Jan Zwicky, who was struck by how beautiful Robert Johnson's lyrics were and decided that the blues was a form she ought to invite Canadian poets to try.

For Cran, the project is another feather to add to his rainbow-coloured toque. He is also now working on his first full-length book of poetry *The Good Life*, which will be published by Nightwood Editions in March.

"I'm excited to have a book out. This is something I've always dreamed about," said Cran, who graduated from UVic in 1997 with a bachelor's degree in creative writing. "I've put a lot of time into publishing, so now I get to be a writer."

"The title section of the book verges on social commentary. It's about looking at how we live as Canadians. I really like the comforts of life and I don't deny it, but it looks at excess and how we take a lot of things for granted," said Cran.

Cran, who has recently began working on the book with his editor, said he is happy with the work and describes having his own book as "scary, but good."

"I didn't want to rush it but now I think I'm ready to publish a book," said Cran, who has been working on it for close to five years.

But more than just a couple of books have been keeping Cran busy lately. After quitting his job as the executive director of the Federation of B.C. Writers because of what he calls a "difference of opinion," Cran has begun work on his master's in creative writing at UBC, which he will finish in the spring of 2003. He has also been working on developing his skills as a photographer.

"I just picked it up last year," says Cran, who was introduced to photography by his friend Stephen Osborne, the editor-in-chief of Canadian culture magazine Geist. "It's a different way to look at the world. You look through a lens rather than your own eye. You look at things you would normally walk by," Cran added. Cran had his first exhibit with eight other Vancouver photographers at last year's Vancouver Writer's Festival.

Needless to say, Cran's success as a writer and publisher is impressive, especially considering he never graduated from high school.

At age 19 Cran read his first book. "I don't know if I want to admit it," laughed Cran. "I read *Interview with a Vampire*. I find that kind of embarrassing now."

After reading the book, Cran wrote a few short stories and submitted a portfolio to UVic's writing department.

"I went through the back door that way," said Cran. "I didn't know what type of writer I wanted to be when I was applying to UVic. I imagined myself writing Anne-Rice-type things or something."

It wasn't until his second year that Cran found his love for poetry. Cran was forced to take a poetry writing workshop with poet Lorna Crozier because he had failed the short-fiction writing section in his first year.

"He was sitting in the class with a baseball cap on and I thought, 'does he have any interest in poetry?'" said Crozier. "I wondered if there was any hope for him."

"As soon as Lorna turned me on to Patrick Lane and Al Purdy, I knew that's what I wanted to do," said Cran.

"His first poems weren't very good, but he just skyrocketed. He educated himself. By the end of his third year he had the biggest poetry library of all the writing students," said Crozier. "He understood that poetry was going to be his life."

Later, in 2000, when Lorna Crozier was asked to choose young writers to be published in the anthology *Breaking the Surface*, she picked Cran.

"I was asked to showcase three up-and-coming poets who I thought were going to make a mark on the world," said Crozier. "Brad was my first choice."

Struggling between duty and morality

by Al Newton

During a 1942 news broadcast Winston Churchill warned "Never, never, never believe any war will be smooth and easy, or that anyone who embarks on the strange voyage can measure the tides and hurricanes he will encounter." To witness the Phoenix Theatre's upcoming drama *The Monument* is to experience this statement first hand.

Canadian playwright Coleen Wagner wrote *The Monument* after being deeply affected by a trip abroad. The intensely evocative piece presents the story of Stetko (Robin Collins), a teenage soldier sentenced to die for the rape and murder of 23 girls. He is spared from death by Mejra (Rebecca Henderson) a woman emotionally destroyed by the atrocities of war. She offers Stetko his life in exchange for his loyal servitude. Mejra guides Stetko through a physical and mental journey toward self realization while Stetko challenges Mejra to evaluate her own life's choices.

photo by Stewart Wood

Director Linda Hardy described *The Monument* as a "journey to Hell and back . . . . You can't get to redemption until you forgive," she said.

Inspired staging by Hardy and the set design of Patrick DuWars dares the audience to examine the play's themes in their own lives. At times shocking and moving, the piece never ceases to evoke powerful emotions and unabashed honesty. Female lead Rebecca Henderson remarked the play is not only about "the search for truth" but also an exposition on the "impossible choices of war."

Perhaps the overriding theme of *The Monument* lies in the ability of the characters to rediscover love in the face of abject misery and the search for forgiveness in an unforgiving world.

The piece gives a visceral portrait of war and elicits a sense of a young man's inner struggle between duty and morality. The play is an uncompromising reflection of a society grappling with how to move past hate and revenge.

As male lead Robin Collins eloquently summarizes, "The most fulfilling choices are made out of love."

Campus culture calendar

VISUAL ARTS

Disquietude
23 artists display a wide variety of photography-based work, all revolving around the feeling of anxiety. Friday, Feb.8 - Feb. 15, noon - 5 p.m., excluding Feb. 10, 11, 12 @ Rogue Art Gallery.

CREATIVE WRITING

Bluesprint
UVSS Students of Colour present: An evening of Black British Columbian Writing. Featuring: Lawrence Ytzhak Braithwaite, Karina Vernon, Joy Russell and Wayde Compton. Friday, Feb. 8, 7 - 9:30 p.m. @ Solstice Cafe, 529 Pandora Avenue.

MUSIC

Fridaymusic
School of Music guitar students perform. Friday, Feb. 8, 12:30 p.m. @ Phillip T. Young Recital Hall. Admission by donation

UVic Wind Symphony
Gerald N. King conducts the Wind Symphony with works from Gillingham, McBeth, Bach and others. Friday, Feb. 8, 8:00 p.m. @ University Centre Farquhar Auditorium. Admission: $10, $8

VIVA LA VOCE!
Highlighting School of Music voice students. Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m. @ Phillip T. Young Recital Hall ($12, $8).

Lieder at Lunch
Informal recital exploring the German Lieder repertoire Featuring Sharon and Dr. Harald Krebs. Wednesday, Feb. 13, 12:30 p.m. @ UVic MacLaurin Building, A169.

Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra
performs Schumann's Symphony #1, "Spring". Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. @ University Centre Fraquhar Auditorium. Admission: $16, $12, $8.

PERFORMING ARTS

The Monument
UVic presents Colleen Wagner's powerful parable The Monument. Friday, Feb. 14 - 23, Monday -Friday at 8 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. @ The Phoenix Theatre. Admission: $18, $9 (for students, excluding Fri. and Sat. nights).

submit your event info to martletart@yahoo.ca.

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Capilano College,
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For details, call **604.990.7916** or
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ON THE SPOT

Why did you come to the Feb. 6 rally?

compiled by John Thompson and Horia Coman

Blake Speers
4th year creative writing

I think it's really important to bring unusual, fun things to any action. There needs to be more of it.

Brendan VanDeusen
4th year theatre

Essentially, I'm against the commodification of human life. And also because there's a monkey on my back. It's my debt monkey.

Jamaine Campbell
Malaspina College, 1st year general studies

It's hard enough to live with the prices at Malaspina, and they're the lowest around. I couldn't imagine what it would be like if you're at a university like UBC.

Radical Cheerleading Squad

To tie Gordon Campbell to the whipping post.

Laces out, Ray!

Last weekend *the Martlet*'s Mark Samcoe watched the Super Bowl. It pissed him off a little. Ready, break.

by Mark Samcoe

It may seem untimely to discuss the CFL while it sits purgatorially in-between seasons but after last Sunday was bowled over by a football game's surprising outcome, a defense must be made for the neglected Grey Cup.

Last Sunday, New England Patriot's kicker Adam Vinatieri's successful 47-yard field goal made it the first time a Super Bowl was won on the last play of the game. More impressive, however, he vindicated a position tainted since Scott Norwood's wide right gave the game to the Giants in 1990.

Still, Super Bowl XXXVI's rousing climax last Sunday doesn't reconcile the game's over-hyped bore of a persona, the outcome all but decided before the coin toss. It has been host to more blowouts than the Transcanada Highway, and it's driven me to a nifty segue.

If you want a true championship football game, you've gotta go Grey.

The CFL's pinnacle event, the Grey Cup, which subsides on re-run Canadian Tire ads, and a-cappella "In the Jungle" by the Nylons at half-time, blitzes America's formula of inflated commercials and lip-synching pop stars.

Granted, their bowls are bigger, drawing from a much larger fan-base, and boosted by a stronger economy and extravagant entertainment industry. But Grey Cup's are just as potent, if only we'd give them a shot. The problem may be that Canadians are tight-fisted in our own backyard but willingly into America's side of the field. If we really want to call it a Canadian game, then maybe we should stick to our kin.

I hesitate to refer to the CFL as the Canadian game, because most of the players are imports and paid in Monopoly money. Nevertheless, our game has a better genealogy and design. Lord Earl Grey (you know like the tea), a former governor general and promoter of social reform and national unity, donated the trophy. The United States' big game's name is an ambiguous adjective. It could be anything: a giant salad bowl, a strike in the final frame.

Their trophy, a pigskin atop a pointed obelisk, is a glorified paperweight. At least victorious players can drink from ours.

People can talk all they want about last Sunday's upset, the New England Patriots going in as 14-point underdogs; the Calgary Stampeders had a losing record, yet managed to make it to the Big O in Montreal to shock a Winnipeg team who'd lost only twice all season.

Several Grey Cups have been won on the final play. The most famous being Vancouver's Lui Passaglia boot in 2000, and Rider Dave "Robo-Kicker" Ridgeway's 1989 Skydome shot in a 43-40 win over Hamilton.

The catalyst could very well be the Grey Cup parade, held in the host city the day before the big game. I remember watching some elderly women from Calgary marching in Winnipeg a few years back, performing acrobatics with their folding lawnchairs. It was mesmerizing.

So why question – more often than Destiny's Child in "Independent Women" – why CFL players defect to the NFL? We know the answer, though we do little to improve the economy. So we should accept the CFL's become a farm system.

Case in point, 2001 Grey Cup MVP Marcus Crandell, a first-year starting QB, might now be pivoting to warmer climates. I say, if a Grey Cup ring and a decent cash bonus doesn't pay his bills, bills, bills, let him bolt. Like most deserters, he'll probably see more benches than endzones.

Some players fare well, Mike Vanderjagt kicks with the Colts and Jeff Garcia had a Pro Bowl season with the 49ers. But Doug Flutie's capping his career by flaking out in San Diego and Warren Moon, who won six cups with the Eskimos, never came close to the Super Bowl with Houston, Minnesota or Seattle.

The league will carry on with the players who do stay, even if the cast of QB's rotating between teams no longer endears. Maybe it's time to stop comparing ourselves to our American counterparts. There are simply too many root differences to treat a contrast as a valid avenue for reflection and improvement.

It'd be productive in a country that prides itself on its self-effacing, unassuming patriotism, to believe the hype made of the last Sunday in November, instead of tuning in with vigor mid-winter, to another of America's Classic archetypes.

All prices are net. Prices in effect until February 24, 2002.

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Hopes and dreams abound at Monster Erg

Crack *Martlet* sportswriter Ruth Knoop spent Sunday afternoon at McKinnon Gym. Why? Well, she wanted to experience the truly Victorian phenomenon known as the Monster Erg. What did she find? Cheers. Tears. And a whole lot of sweaty rowers.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Rowing competitors show the bleary expectation and the dry pain of defeat at the 17th annual Monster Erg last Sunday at McKinnon Gym. Athletes in the gym raced against one another from Concept II rowing machines and checked their progress on monitors.

by **Ruth Knoop**

Just when you thought it was safe to walk back into McKinnon Gym. Just when you thought you had seen it all. You had no idea the Monster was lurking.

Rowers from all over Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland packed themselves into McKinnon Gym on Sunday to test their strength and fortitude in the 17th annual Monster Erg.

Vikes women's rowing coach Rick Crawley conceived the idea for the Erg in the mid 1980s, after seeing a similar event in Boston in 1982.

He saw it as a good way to practice and compete during winter.

"We're lucky," said Crawley. "Our winter is only two months long, but the East has a four to six month winter and is forced to train indoors during that time."

McKinnon Gym housed 24 Concept II Rowing Machines, which in turn held around 500 competitors throughout the day. The machines were hooked up to computers and monitors to simulate a 2000 metre-rowing course.

As competitors rowed on the machines, they could see their progress on the monitors in front of them. Yellow numbered boats moved across the screens, giving the athletes an idea of how they were doing in relation to other rowers.

At the same time competitors rowed in McKinnon, so did competitors in Toronto. All told, over 1,000 athletes in total competed for local medals and the famed "Top Canuck, Eh" national championship t-shirt.

In the past, monitors have shown both East and West competitions through Internet technology. However, the event, which has gone off without a hitch in the past, had some problems this time around.

"We attempted to hook it up through the Internet but we had some technical difficulties," said Crawley. "So we just [had] to keep calling Toronto to get the scores."

UVic's Lysanne Lavigne started off the day with a victory in the Women's Under-23 Lightweight event. Fellow UVic club rowers Lindsay Jennerich and Kate Richards finished in second and third for a UVic sweep in the event.

UVic's John Mandick won the Monster Erg by topping McKinnon rowers in the Senior B Lightweight Division with a time of 6:15.3 but had to settle for second place nationally after Toronto's Dale Stevens edged him out by 1.5 seconds in the computer-linked race.

Renata Troc of UVic followed with a national title in the Senior A Lightweight women after edging teammate Sheryl Preston by 3.8 seconds, and UVic's Ruari Carthew also won a national title in the Men's Lightweight Division with a time of 6:24.3.

One notable competitor was former UVic rower Rachelle de Jong, who finished first in the Senior A Women Division with a time of 6:55.6. With the victory, de Jong becomes the first athlete to win in both the Under-23 (2001 & 2002) and Senior A Women's events (2002).

The events weren't just for varsity and national-team rowers. Novice and Junior rowers also had their day in the sun and UVic showed well in the Novice events.

In the Men's Division, UVic's Chris Kempainen thrashed the field with a time of 6:15.5; a time that would have placed him third in the Senior B Lightweight Division.

UVic's Chelsea Keys finished second in the Novice Women's Division.

Four competitors qualified for the National Sprints Final, to be held later this month.

UVic's John Mandick will compete in the Collegiate Lightweight Men's Division, while UBC's Adam Gant, Brentwood College's Brenden Hodge , and Victoria City Rowing Club's Audrey Van Eerden will also compete in their respective divisions.

"We would like to take more people, but unfortunately, we are limited to only four qualifiers," said Crawley. As a result, Troc, who won the Senior A Women's title, won't go to the finals, although she did qualify.

As well as competition, Crawley uses the Erg as an opportunity to sell the Concept 2 Rowing Machines.

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UVic shines in Vic Volley tourney

by Iain McLetchie

After winning a Kelowna Club tournament two weeks ago, the UVic men's volleyball squad entered last weekend's annual Vic Volley tournament in full stride.

The tournament, which features the best club teams from Vancouver and the Island, is run annually in Victoria by the British Columbia Volleyball Association (BCVA). Since all the other club tourneys are run in Burnaby's Harry Jerome Complex, this is the sole road trip for the Vancouver Club teams – their one chance to shine outside of Vancouver.

The UVic team waltzed through a pool-play round, finishing with only one game dropped out of six. This left them in first-place, awaiting the winner of a quarterfinal game between Molson Club and Focus Volleyball. Molson won in two easy games, setting up a rematch of last year's Vic Volley semifinal; a tight game won by UVic, their sole defeat last season of Molson.

This match turned out the same, but by an even greater margin. A strong gameplan based on blocking and serving kept the Molson passers and hitters on their heels and led to an easy UVic win by scores of 25-17 and 25-19.

UVic setter, Jason Friesen, was impressed by his team's victory, particularly against a team that has been a perpetual thorn in UVic's side.

"We'd beaten Molson once in my four years here," Friesen said. "To beat them this handily says a lot about our team."

Friesen also noted the level of play that Molson brings to B.C. club volleyball.

"They're made up of former college and university all-stars and All-Canadians," he noted. "They've played together with the same group of guys for six years now, so they're still pretty good."

The win set up a final matchup with the X-Men club team, who sport a fairly impressive nucleus of their own. Former national team setter, Kelly Cooksley, anchors a veteran squad that includes ex-UBC All-Canadians Mike Dalziel and Dave Braun.

UVic was zero for five last season against the X-men, and the first game was no exception, with UVic on the losing side of a 26-24 decision, despite holding a 23-20 lead at one point.

X-Men proceeded to close out the match with a 25-22 win and returned to Vancouver as Vic Volley champs.

Despite the loss, UVic showed a team that has improved vastly over the course of one season to another; an improvement that was shown by nearly beating the top club team in B.C.

Friesen notes that the difference in play has been due to a few factors.

"All six guys on the court get together very well," he said. "There's no selfishness on the court at all."

The core group of players has been together for three years and the effect is noticeable to Friesen, particularly in terms of intensity.

"It's one more year together. It may have taken us three years, but sometimes that's how it works," he stated. "We don't get pulled down to the level of poorer teams anymore; we keep our level high. Now we roll over the bad teams and keep playing well against good teams."

A few key players stood out in Friesen's mind for their play over the weekend, namely Abe Avender, Brett Lockhart and Darryl McCrady.

"Abe's serving and hitting were great, Brett was so strong in the middle with his blocking and hitting and Darryl's hitting and serving were crucial to our play," Friesen noted. "It was good to have those three guys bailing us out at times."

The play of Avender, a left-handed hitter, really had Friesen talking.

"Abe was pretty much automatic all weekend," he said. "He was, no doubt, our best server. He got us tons of points."

It's more than just serving and hitting with Avender though, according to Friesen.

"Abe being a starter is huge. He gives us leadership and keeps us into the games. He's very level; never too high or too low."

The team is looking forward to a season-ending tournament at the University of Arizona in March and have been fund-raising as much as possible to cover the costs. The tournament features 10 of the top-ranked university club teams of the western States, including Arizona, Sacramento State, Indiana, Colorado and Illinois, and bills itself as the best tournament of its kind in the U.S.

"[The tournament] has one of the highest quality group of teams of any tournaments in the States," said Friesen, who also mentioned the different approach of play seen in U.S. teams.

"It's a way higher intensity than in regular tournaments. There are no non-intense games . . . every game is a playoff match."

With a veteran-heavy squad (nine of 12 players graduate this season), the tournament will be a last-hurrah for the team.

"This is the last tournament for a lot of our careers," Friesen said. "I honestly think we have a chance to win. I'm really excited to go down."

WOMEN'S RUGBY

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Vikes' women's rugby players battled it out with a tough James Bay side on the turf at Wallace Field Saturday afternoon. UVic fought hard, as seen here, but came up short in the end. James Bay took the game 50-5.

Vikes basketball goes valley in weekend set

by Craig Battle

Tony Bennett lost his heart in San Francisco. He sang a song about it.

The University of Victoria women's basketball team, on the other hand, lost their hearts last weekend in Langley. Not to former lovers, though, but to the Trinity Western University Spartans.

It wouldn't make much of a song.

The Vikes needed to win both games in the weekend set – without injured guard Lindsay Anderson – to extend their season into the playoffs. They fell short of this goal with a loss on Saturday night.

"We controlled our destiny," said Cheng. "We needed to win two."

The Vikes, who had dropped five straight since stealing one from Alberta on Jan. 11, showed that do-or-die motivation with a win on Friday night.

"We played to potential on Friday night," said UVic head coach Brian Cheng. "Everybody contributed on Friday night."

Four Vikes – Krystal O'Byrne, Jania Mynott, Lindsay McDonald and Kelly Devlin – all scored in double figures as the Vikes shot over 50 per cent from the field and an impressive 46 per cent from the three-point range.

The Vikes went on to win 68-62. Their 68 points almost equalled the total they scored in two games the previous weekend against SFU.

Saturday night was an entirely different ball game, however.

The Vikes failed to put the ball in the hole, and worse, at times failed to shoot at all.

"We were hesitant," said Cheng. "We didn't want to do what was necessary, which was shoot the ball. When we did get our opportunities, we missed them."

UVic scored only 32 points in the contest, off 28 per cent shooting from the field, 11 per cent from beyond the arc and 38 per cent from the free throw line.

Trinity Western walked to a 53-32 win, which dropped the Vikes to 5-13 and pushed them out of the Can West playoff picture for good.

However, that doesn't mean the team is going to lay down in front of Saskatchewan this coming weekend.

"We have to end on a positive note," said Cheng. "Win or lose, we just have to play well."

The men, however, showed poise in knocking off the Spartans in two tight games.

All five of the Vikes' starters scored in double figures on Friday night.

More importantly, the beleaguered Vikes held the Trinity Western front court in check, limiting centre Andy VanderMuellen to only two points on one of two shootings.

The Vikes went on to win 85-79, with both teams matching each other shot for shot and scoring 44 points in the second half.

The Trinity Western fans saw more of the same from the two teams on Saturday night, although it was an even larger-scoring affair.

UVic once again shot over 50 per cent from the field and used a balanced attack of four scoring threats en route to a 90-81 victory.

Keith Bustard led the way for the Vikes with 23 points, while Sandy Bisaro kept close behind with 19 points and 12 rebounds.

The win pushes UVic's record to 10-8, and within reach of the second-place UBC Thunderbirds.

The Vikes will now finish their regular season schedule on the road in Saskatchewan.

UVic Graduate Students' Society

March 2002

• Referendum •

on Student Group Funding

Do you support increasing Graduate Students' Society fees to fund the following groups and services:

UVSS Clubs	$ .50
UVSS Constituency Groups	$1.00
Vancouver Island Public Interest Research Group (VIPIRG)	$2.00
Ombudsperson	$1.00
Sexual Assault Centre	$1.00

For a total fee increase* of $5.50 per graduate student per academic semester,
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*Please note the fee increase takes effect Summer 2002 semester.

Voting: March 6, 7 & 8
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For more info, please contact:
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Vikes thump visiting club

by Julia Smith

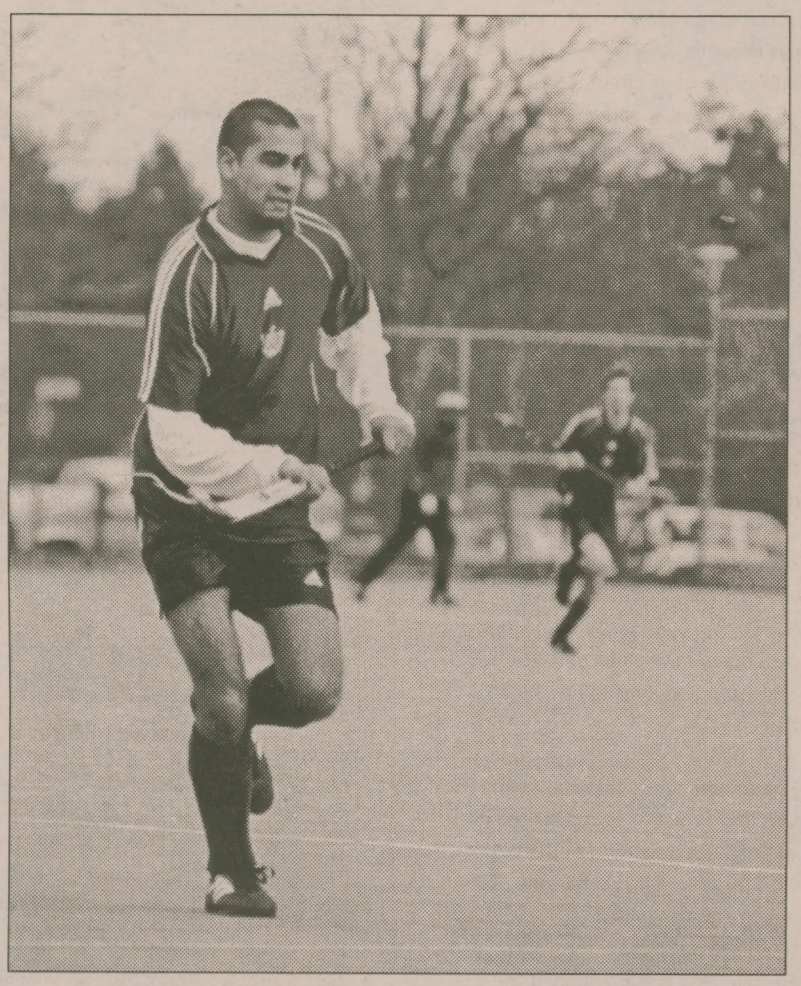


photo by Graham Winterbottom

An athlete chases the ball and the win on the UVic field hockey pitch.

Sticks and spirits flew as high as the Vikes' score Saturday, as UVic pounded the West Vancouver Field Hockey Club 7-1.

Chris Baggot, Manu Bhata and the Grimes brothers – Connor and Richard – all tallied goals during the match.

The Vikes kept West Van on their heels up to the last minute of the game. As the team set up for the last play, a short corner, coach Rick Underwood pulled his goalie, thereby conceding a goal to the opposition squad.

UVic Head Coach Rick Underwood explained that the West Vancouver team is "the bottom of the barrel" of the British Columbia First Division, in which the Vikes play, and as a result the team had a fairly easy win. UVic is hoping to do as well against their next opponents at the Newcastle Shield next weekend in Vancouver.

"This is a practice game for next week,"said team captain Richard Grimes.

A victory at the Newcastle Shield game will determine if the Vikes will advance to the Shield semifinals, also held in Vancouver.

The team is also planning a trip to San Francisco, where they will see a more physical style of game.

"It's good practice," Richard said. "The Americans have a different style."

Richard and Connor Grimes are brothers from Duncan who have played field hockey for years.

"We come from a big field hockey family," said Connor.

Their older sisters Aiobhann and Anna both played at UVic and for the national team, and Connor now trains with the junior national team. He recently travelled with the junior nats to Australia, and spends his weekends training in Vancouver.

He brings a huge amount of talent and skill to the UVic team.

"Connor is the best Vikes athlete," Underwood said.

Richard, who seems to be a magnet for injuries, was icing his finger after getting slashed with a stick Saturday. He spent last semester recuperating after his kneecap was broken by a slash.

A few of the other players had bloody and bruised knees as well.

"We don't have protection or padding, like knee pads in volleyball," explained Underwood.

Underwood has coached the team for the past four seasons and appears to have the group under tight direction.

Throughout the game he yelled instructions, encouragement and jokes at the players.

"Set Tom up for a goal!" Underwood yelled during the last 15 minutes of the game. "His whole family is watching."

Thomas Phillippson responded that he didn't need help and could get a goal on his own. A few minutes later he earned a yellow card for swearing at the referee.

Underwood explained that players have to pay the league $25 for yellow cards and $50 for red, so Phillippson is $25 lighter in the pocket following the UVic win.

Vikes send twenty to swim nationals

by Chris Hindmarch-Watson

On the first day of the 2002 B.C. Senior Championships competition UVic swimmer Darren Desrochers missed the CIS qualifying standard in the 50 metre butterfly by nine one-hundredths of a second.

On the second he missed the standard in the 50 metre split of his 100 metre butterfly by eleven one-hundredths of a second.

The third proved to be a different story. With the CIS qualifying standard set at 27.25, Desrochers, or "Heavy D," clocked an impressive 26.96 to qualify for his first CIS championships.

Rookie Vike Danielle Bell continued to shine, winning the 800 metre freestyle in a time of 9:00.24.

With the victory Bell also claimed the B.C. Senior Circuit Distance Freestyle title and earned $500 in prize money.

Bell also earned fourth-place finishes in both the 200 and 400 metre freestyle. Fifth-year veteran Josee Dubois won bronze medals in both the 100 (1:14.72) and 200 (2:39.33) metre breaststroke.

Kellie Rolston also won a bronze medal for UVic in the 200 metre butterfly in a time of 2:22.27.

Second-year Jesse Jacks won gold in the 200 metre butterfly in 2:04.51 and the overall B.C. Senior Circuit butterfly award.

David Creel swam a strong race in the men's 1500 metre to place second with 16:06.67. Creel added two silver medals in the 400 metre freestyle and 400 metre individual medley.

John Stamhuis also earned a silver medal for the Vikes in the 200 metre breaststroke with a time of 2:23.93 and picked up a bronze in the 50 metre breaststroke in 31.30.

The Vikes now have two weeks to prepare for the CIS Championships in Vancouver. A team of 13 women and seven men will represent UVic at the competition, which takes place Feb. 22-24.

The meet will mark the end of the season for some of the varsity swimmers while others will continue on to the Commonwealth Games Trials in Winnipeg this March.

Intramural Stats

Ball Hockey

Wed.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Aardvarks	1	0	1	0	1
Brocket Rockets	1	1	0	0	3
Little Snatchers	1	1	0	0	3
Nufan	1	1	0	0	3
Strange Bruisers	1	1	0	0	3
Ranch	1	0	1	0	1
The Underground	1	1	0	0	3
Soundcheck	1	0	1	0	1
Highly Recruited	1	1	0	0	3
Singles I	1	1	0	0	3
Singles 2	0	0	0	0	0

Thurs.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Law Lords	1	0	1	0	1
The Hawks	1	0	1	0	1
Absolute Chem	1	1	0	0	3
Hoagies	1	1	0	0	3
Keep it Up	1	0	1	0	1
Singles	1	0	1	0	1
Duncan Boyz	1	1	0	0	3
Desi Dynamite	1	1	0	0	3
Headhunters	0	0	0	0	0

Ice Hockey

Wed.

	GP	W	L	T	P
A-Team	2	0	2	0	2
Smugs	1	1	0	0	3
Gyrating Ants	2	1	1	0	4
Vipers	2	1	1	0	4
Wilson	1	1	0	0	3
Puck Off	1	0	1	0	1
Beg's Blades	1	1	0	0	3
Singles	2	1	1	0	4

Sun.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Begbie Blades	2	1	1	0	4
Reservoir Dogs	2	1	1	0	4
Lipsplitters	2	1	1	0	4
Ghettobooty	2	0	2	0	2
Goonies	2	1	1	0	4
Fireball	2	0	2	0	2
Playboys	2	2	0	0	6
Team Fairplay	2	2	0	0	6
Red Army	2	1	1	0	4
Force	2	2	0	0	6
Singles	1	1	1	0	1

Inline Hockey

Mon.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Bench Warmers	2	2	0	0	6
Evo	2	0	2	0	2
Dirty Dan's	2	1	1	0	4
Canadiens	2	2	0	0	6
Sharp Shooter	2	2	0	0	6
Hit for Brains	2	0	2	0	2
Law Lords	2	1	1	0	4
Brocket Rockets	1	0	1	0	1
The Zygots	2	2	0	0	6
Singles	2	0	2	0	2
Ballers	1	1	0	0	3
Singles II	2	1	1	0	4
Wounded G's	1	1	0	0	3

Flag Football

	GP	W	L	T	P
Da Bears	2	1	0	1	5
Fellowship Pigs	2	1	1	0	4
Law Lords	2	0	1	1	3
Rodney	2	0	2	0	2
AJ Assassins	0	0	0	0	0
VIB	2	1	0	1	5
Trojans	2	0	0	2	4
Flagettes	2	1	1	0	4
Campus Security	2	2	0	0	6
Adams Project II	2	1	0	1	5

Indoor Soccer

Tues.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Shark Sandwick	1	0	1	0	1
Free Morphemes	1	0	1	0	1
WL United	1	1	0	0	3
Machine	1	1	0	0	3
KA Blasters	0	0	0	0	0
Liquor Pigs	1	0	1	0	1
Singles I	1	0	1	0	1
Singles II	1	1	0	0	3
Life's Too Short	1	1	0	0	3
Cuddly Cannons	1	0	1	0	1
5th Undergrads	1	1	0	0	3

Wed.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Bringing It In	2	1	1	0	4
Galskap	2	2	0	0	6
Matthew	1	0	0	1	2
Barking Spiders	2	1	1	0	4
Kickers	2	2	0	0	6
AP3	2	1	1	0	4
Shane	1	0	0	0	0
Singles I	2	0	1	1	3
Singles II	2	0	2	0	2
Singles III	2	1	1	0	4
Seos Uto	0	0	0	0	0

Outdoor Soccer

Tues.

	GP	W	L	T	P
Law	1	0	0	1	2
Ultimate Singles	2	1	0	1	5
Cryptic Parrots	2	0	2	0	2
Singles	2	2	1	0	6

Ultimate

Tues. Recreation

	GP	W	L	T	P
Porn Stars	3	2	1	0	7
Super Happy Fun	3	1	2	0	5
Disc Drive	2	0	0	2	4
Action Jackson	2	2	0	0	6
Ultimate Man	2	1	1	0	4
Ultimizers...	2	1	1	0	4
Ultimaniacs	3	2	1	0	7
Not Bad, You?	2	1	1	0	4
S.S. Coop	2	0	2	0	2
Natural Chillers	3	2	1	0	7
The C-Train	2	2	0	0	6
Singles	2	0	2	0	2

Tues. Competitive

	GP	W	L	T	P
Pick This	3	1	2	0	5
Lanky	3	1	2	0	5
Grass Brutes	3	1	1	1	6
Huck It Long	4	2	1	1	9
First Blood	3	2	1	0	7
Wrong League	3	1	2	0	5
Flicks Ahoy	3	2	1	0	7
Dawgs	3	0	3	0	3
Baracuda	4	1	3	0	6
Disc Dogs	3	1	2	0	5
Fellowship Disc	3	1	0	2	7
Fear of Commit	4	4	0	0	12
Singles	3	2	1	0	7

Field Hockey

	GP	W	L	T	P
Killer Smurfs	1	0	0	1	2
Prostars	1	0	0	1	2
Grasshoppers	1	0	1	0	1
Crickets	1	0	1	0	1
Team Canada	1	1	0	0	3

VIKES Athletics
UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA
721-8406 www.uvic.ca/vikes

BC RUGBY UNION -
PREMIER LEAGUE ACTION

Saturday
Feb 9

Men's Rugby vs.
Ravens

3:00 pm

Game at Wallace Field

photo by Horia Coman

Students hoist a sea of yellow signs calling for a reduction in tuition fees.

photo by Graham Winterbottom

The protest in Victoria was entirely peaceful though various Victoria Police officers blocked sidestreets and directed traffic around the march

photo by Graham Winterbottom

Students from all over the lower mainland and Vancouver Island converged on the legislature.

photo by Horia Coman

The Victoria protest was one of the largest in a series of Day of Action protests across Canada.

BILLBOARDS

ON CAMPUS

Tibet 2001 – a slide presentation by Dr. Marion Tipple, traveller, photographer and president of the Trans-Himalayan Aid Society. **Thurs., Feb. 7,** at 7:30 p.m. HSDA Rm. 240. Admission $8/$5 students. All proceeds go to TRAS. For further info phone 382-1779.

Free coffee house/open mic night. Everyone welcome. **Tues. Feb. 12,** 7 to 10 p.m., SUB Upper Lounge. Music, poetry, spoken word, open mic.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BUGS, the Biology Undergraduate Society is having their third annual Polar Bear Swim to raise food for the Mustard Seed food bank on **Sat., Feb. 9,** from 1-3 p.m. This will run as an inter-faculty competition with points awarded to swimmers (students and faculty). Please bring a non-perishable food item to donate and a cup for free hot chocolate. Swimsuits optional. Spectators welcome. Join us at Felicitas afterwards for prizes. For more info contact BUGS at bugs@uvic.ca

Stress management: discover sources and coping mechanisms. Next Victoria workshop: **Feb. 9.** Student price: $59 + GST. 1-866-300-0025. Info: www.Walsh-Seminars.com

'The Amazing Breasts.' A workshop for women about breast health. **Feb. 23,** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost $60, includes lunch. Build your own model of a breast to see how this wonderful part of your body works with Louise Smith MSc, Ovarian Connection, educator in girls' and women's biology. Learn how to do self breast massage and other simple therapies with Pam Fichtner RMT, Sephira Healing Centre, Vancouver. For more info email: Breastfeeding_Matters@hotmail.com, or phone Eve McLeod at 598-2264.

Notice is hereby given that an application will be made to the Director of Vital Statistics for a change of name, pursuant to the provisions of the "Name Act" by me, Melissa Dawn Barclay, 122-1615 Belmont Ave., Victoria, V8R 3Y9, to change my name from Barclay, Melissa Dawn, to Linteris-Barclay, Melissa Dawn, dated Jan. 30, 2002.

EMPLOYMENT

Email processors required immediately. Great job for students. We are currently hiring email processors to work at home. Earn from $2000 to $5000/month. No previous experience necessary. For more info email dream-job@excite.com.

Interested in teaching children English in Korea for a year? You need a university degree or be in your final semester to apply. 2200 CAD, 30 hours a week, free airfare and housing. For full details email me at ian@drskorea.com

Summer camp staff wanted: child-care and rec staff. Camp for ADD/LD children in NE Pennsylvania. **June 22 to Aug. 18** – many Canadian staff. Camp pays a stipend in US $, plus travel allowance, working visa, health ins. and room & board. Local interviews, call Bob at 385-5277 or email summit_bc@hotmail.com, or visit us at www.summitcamp.com

Summer camp counselors, on-campus interviews for premier camps in Massachusetts! Positions available for talented, energetic and fun-loving students as counselors in all team sports including roller hockey and lacrosse, all individual sports such as tennis and golf, waterfront and pool activities, and specialty activities including art, dance, theatre, gymnastics, newspaper, rocketry and radio. Great salaries, room & board, travel, and US summer work visa. **June 18 to Aug. 17.** Enjoy a great summer that promises to be unforgettable. For more info and to apply: MAH-KEE-NAC – www.campmkn.com (boys): 1-800-753-9118; or DANBEE – www.danbee.com (girls): 1-800-392-3752. Interviewer will be on campus **Mon., March 4,** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the SUB Rms. B025 and B028.

Travel – teach English: job guaranteed. Make great $$. 5 day/40hr (**Feb. 13-17** or online/correspondence) TESOL Teacher cert./license. Respected worldwide, government accredited. 1000s of jobs. FREE info pack 1-888-270-2941 www.canadianglobal.net FREE info session: **March 19.**

VOLUNTEERS

Interested in helping others and learning life skills? Peer Helping is recruiting next year's volunteers. Info available at our office, SUB B106 or call 721-8343, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. M-F.

FOR SALE

1988 Honda civic wagon for sale. Only 85,000 km on engine! Great condition. $4500. Call Sue at 721-6903.

Discount tires and auto repairs. Guaranteed tires from $10. 383-1050.

HEY YOU

Shagginher – you're never going to win the bet with that backpack.

Nicole Latham – I have been traumatized by your beauty and am drowning in desire. Just one slap of the ass, it's all I ask. Happy 22! Love Slim F. Curly

Shawn Noah Douglas! Happy 22nd birthday you donkey. Love Vannah and Joel.

Heather with the light hair, big smile, and a penchant for "organizing" things . . . we're gonna demolish a whole lotta martinis . . . .

It's been awhile since I've written you one of these but here I am again. And here we are. We have altered the frame but the insides have not changed. An invitation then: spend the 14th with me. No expectations. No romance, not in the typical chocolate-rose-candy-covered sense anyway. We will just be, ontologically positive.

Amie, you rock our ass juice. And you smell great.

I LOVE red haired news editors.

BILLBOARD RATES

students & clubs	$2/issue
non-students	$2/line
businesses	$5.50/3 lines + $2/extra line
hey you!	$1/issue

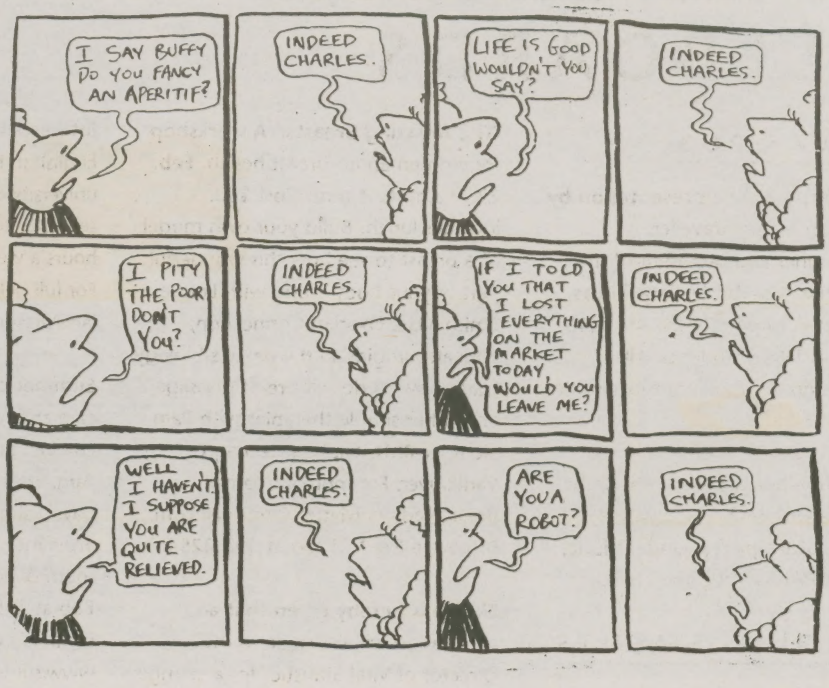
comics

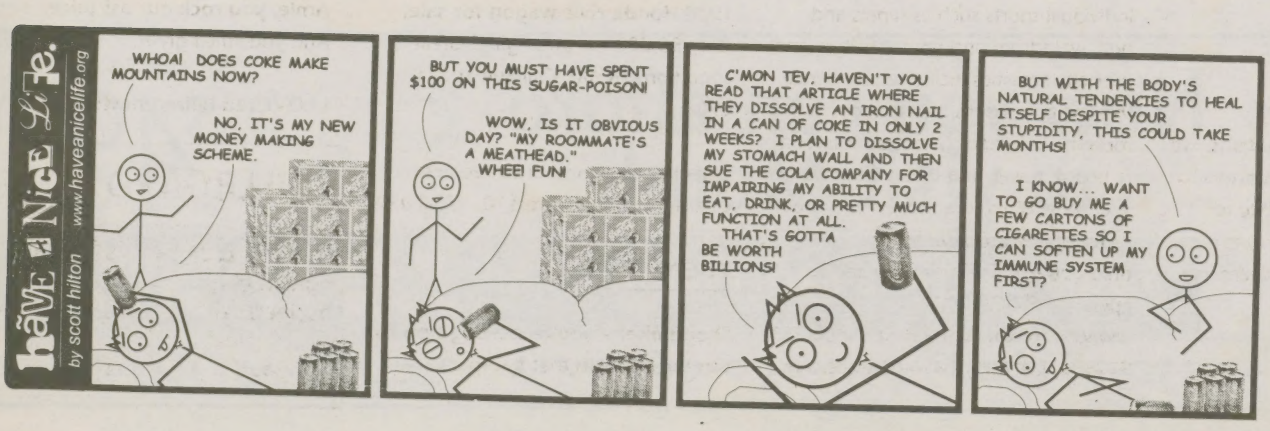
WE INTERUPT OUR REGULARLY SCHEDUALED STORYLINE TO GOOFF ON A POINTLESS TANGENT...
MINI SAM AND FUZZY!
ACTUAL SIZE!
SAM AND FUZZY
BY SAM LOGAN
YEAH, IT'LL BE JUST LIKE NOW, ONLY... YOU KNOW, UH... SMALLER.
SURE, IT'S STUPID AND TOTALLY ILLEGIBLE. BUT ON THE OTHER HAND... WHO CARES? IT'LL FREE UP LOTS OF SPACE FOR CAR ADS!
PLUS, WITH THE NEW FORMAT, THE COMIC WILL ONLY TAKE A FEW SECONDS TO DRAW!
SWEET!
AUTHOR!
FINALLY, OUR COMIC WILL START TO EARN THE KIND OF READER REACTIONS COMMON TO OTHER LEADING COMICS IN THE ALTERNATIVE PRESS!
MY SIX-YEAR-OLD CAN DRAW BETTER!
...I DON'T GET IT.
SLOZ!
THE WEEKLY GNUS
SAM AND FUZZY IS ©2002 BY SAM LOGAN
YES, IT'S MINI SAM AND FUZZY! 95% SMALLER, 100% LESS FUNNY! WRITE IN AND DEMAND THIS NEW FORMAT TODAY!!! IT'S DEMOCRACY IN ACTION!
SAM AND FUZZY
NEXT WEEK: invisible SAM & FUZZY!

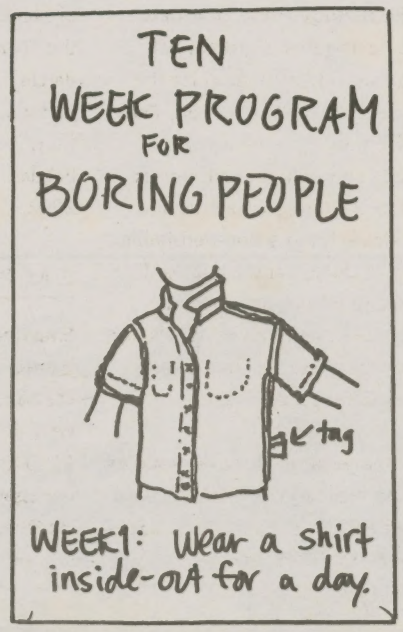
COMICS FOR YOUR CHURCH
BRIAN 'oi' FUKUSHIMA
HEY FRED I JUST THOUGHT OF THE COOLEST THING!
OH YEAH? WHAT?
UM... WAIT A SEC HERE
HEY WHAT THE...
EGAD! OUR VOICE BUBBLES! THEY'RE
NOT... DISAPPEARING WE'LL BE CROSSED
WE MUST AVOID EXTENSIVE SPEECHES AND SUPERFLUOUS, UNNECESSARY AND REDUNDANT WORDS AT ALL COST! OUR LIVES DEPEND ON IT!!
HEY WATCH IT!
DON'T SAY... ANYTHING
OOF
THIS IS ALL YOUR FAULT!!
TITO SANTAN
HEY WAIT. I NEVER SAID THIS, WHAT?!
SUPER FUTURISTIC AMAZING ELECTRO-COMICS AT: WWW.BENTCOMICS.COM — CAN YOU HANDLE IT?! — CAN YOU?

the rent

this path leads to an end With, a totally new begining
oh — yes, the sun is still shining
And, of course. The birds are chirping.
cheep
chirp
cheep
the rain drops will always fall
And, bones decay
flowers bloom
The ocean's breath clings on to nothing but good taste
Surrounded by the beauty of balance. I feel luke warm. And, all I can think to myself is... stop thinking.
be free and enjoy


I SAY BUFFY DO YOU FANCY AN APERITIF?
INDEED CHARLES.
LIFE IS GOOD WOULDN'T YOU SAY?
I PITY THE POOR DONT YOU?
IF I TOLD YOU THAT I LOST EVERYTHING ON THE MARKET TODAY, WOULD YOU LEAVE ME?
WELL I HAVENT I SUPPOSE YOU ARE QUITE RELIEVED.
ARE YOU A ROBOT?


have a Nice Life.
by scott hilton www.haveanicelife.org
WHOA! DOES COKE MAKE MOUNTAINS NOW?
NO. IT'S MY NEW MONEY MAKING SCHEME.
BUT YOU MUST HAVE SPENT $100 ON THIS SUGAR-POISON!
WOW. IS IT OBVIOUS DAY? "MY ROOMMATE'S A MEATHEAD." WHEE! FUN!
C'MON TEV, HAVEN'T YOU READ THAT ARTICLE WHERE THEY DISSOLVE AN IRON NAIL IN A CAN OF COKE IN ONLY 2 WEEKS? I PLAN TO DISSOLVE MY STOMACH WALL AND THEN SUE THE COLA COMPANY FOR IMPAIRING MY ABILITY TO EAT, DRINK, OR PRETTY MUCH FUNCTION AT ALL. THAT'S GOTTA BE WORTH BILLIONS!
BUT WITH THE BODY'S NATURAL TENDENCIES TO HEAL ITSELF DESPITE YOUR STUPIDITY, THIS COULD TAKE MONTHS!
I KNOW... WANT TO GO BUY ME A FEW CARTONS OF CIGARETTES SO I CAN SOFTEN UP MY IMMUNE SYSTEM FIRST?



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ZERO, AS IN THE AMOUNT OF MONEY YOU'LL HAVE WHEN YOU FINISH SCHOOL.

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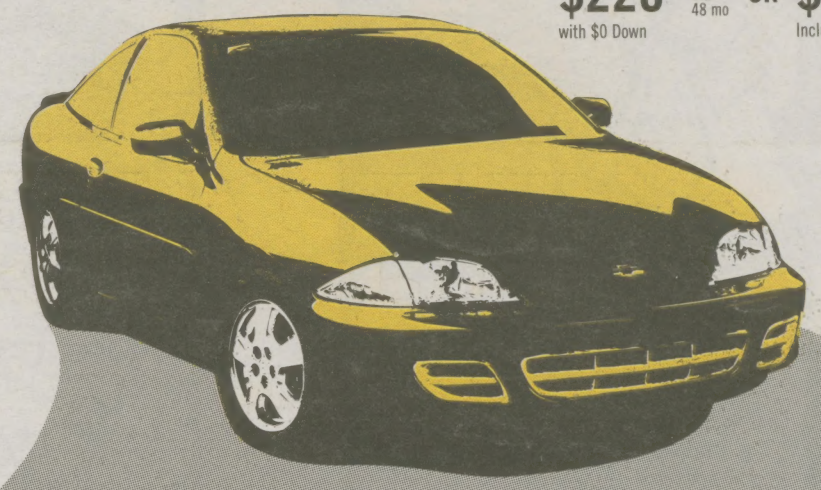

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OR

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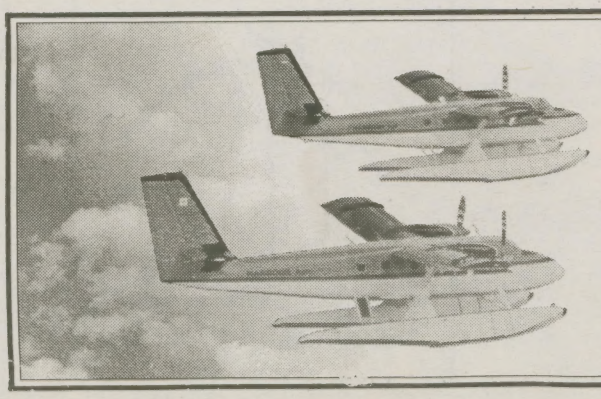

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